

JPRS 78079

14 May 1981

South and East Asia Report

No. 1003

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets {} are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Indexes to this report (by keyword, author, personal names, title and series) are available from Bell & Howell, Old Mansfield Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

14 May 1981

SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

No. 1003

CONTENTS

BANGLADESH

Report on Second Day of Democratic League Parley (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 6 Apr 81)	1
Democratic League Split Widens, Leaders Defect (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 5 Apr 81)	2
Reports on Speeches at Dinner for Saudi Visitor (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 13, 14 Apr 81)	3
Bangladesh Foreign Minister's Speech Saudi Foreign Minister's Speech Text	
Rasheed Choudhury New Foreign Ministry Secretary (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 12 Apr 81)	8
Bangladesh-Saudi Joint Communique Summarized (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 14 Apr 81)	9
Naval Vessel Commissioned at Chittagong (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 12 Apr 81)	12
Directorate of Primary Mass Education Formed (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 5 Apr 81)	13
Export Processing Zone Authority Established (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 14 Apr 81)	15
Jute Mill Director Talks on Regaining Market (THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 12 Apr 81)	16
Food Minister Reports on Warehouse Construction (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 6 Apr 81)	18
Briefs	
Party Merger	19
PRC Visitors	19

INDIA

Lok Dal Dissidents Form New Political Policy (PATRIOT, 5, 6 Apr 81)	20
Delhi Press Conference National Convention Held	
U.S. Attitude Toward Pakistan Nuclear Program Told (K. Subrahmanyam; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 8 Apr 81)	25
Report on Gandhi Speeches on Jammu Tour (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Apr 81)	29
Assam Congress(I) Executives' Resolution Reported (THE STATESMAN, 3 Apr 81)	31
Dissidents Reported Active in Assam Congress(I) (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	32
Janata Candidate, Muslim, Elected Bombay Mayor (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	34
Report on Defence Scientists' Working Conditions (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	36
Gandhi Talks to Newsmen in Bangalore (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	38
Ministry Reports 331 Indians in Pakistani Jails (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	39
Reporter Gives Background on Kashmir DP Issue (V. K. Dethé; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	40
Revolutionary Socialist Leader Warns Left Front (Chandrasekhar Sarkar; THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 5 Apr 81) ..	42
Antireservationist Conference Planned for May (PATRIOT, 7 Apr 81)	43
New Janavadi Party Leaders Talk to Newsmen (PATRIOT, 7 Apr 81)	44
Congress(I) Loses Seat in 5 Apr Byelection (THE HINDU, 7 Apr 81)	46
Gandhi Reportedly Approves Anti-Marxist Movements (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 5 Apr 81)	47
Gandhi Reportedly Endorses Move Against Front (THE STATESMAN, 3 Apr 81)	48

Deaths Reported in Congress(I) Calcutta Bandh (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Apr 81)	49
Bomb Kills District Commissioner in Assam (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Apr 81)	53
West Bengal Assembly Condemns Congress(I) Violence (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Apr 81)	54
Assam Reported To Begin Normalization Process (K. C. Khanna; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Apr 81)	55
Urs Holds Gandhi To Blame for Calcutta Disturbance (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Apr 81)	57
Assam Deputy Inspector General Dismissed (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 7 Apr 81)	59
Army Commanders' Conference Opens in Delhi (THE HINDU, 3 Apr 81)	60
Biographical Sketch of Army Chief of Staff (THE HINDU, 5 Apr 81)	61
Analyst Says Cabinet Shuffle Impending (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 5 Apr 81)	63
Paper Reviews Career of Former CPI Chairman Dange (THE HINDU, 5 Apr 81)	67
Gujarat All-Party Peace Committee Dissolved (THE STATESMAN, 6 Apr 81)	69
Naga Leader for Talks Without Preconditions (THE STATESMAN, 6 Apr 81)	71
Northeast States' Border Disputes Cause Concern (THE HINDU, 6 Apr 81)	72
Delhi Concerned at Influx of Bangladesh Nationals (THE STATESMAN, 3 Apr 81)	75
Committee Scores Regulation of Foreign Firms (PATRIOT, 4 Apr 81)	76
Border Security Officers Hold 3-Day Meeting (PATRIOT, 4 Apr 81)	78
Extremists Accused in Northeast Rail Blasts (THE STATESMAN, 4 Apr 81)	79
International Racket Lures Indians Overseas (THE STATESMAN, 4 Apr 81)	80

'McCarthyism' Claimed in Civil Service Hiring (THE STATESMAN, 4 Apr 81)	81
IMF Seen in Need of Help From Wealthy Countries (Editorial; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Apr 81)	82
Washington Correspondent Reports IMF Developments (N. Ram; THE HINDU, 7 Apr 81)	83
Writer Analyzes Results of 1981 Census (M. M. Khullar; PATRIOT, 7 Apr 81)	84
Census Operations in Andaman, Nicobar Reported (THE HINDU, 4 Apr 81)	87
Tribals in Southern Bihar Declare Independence (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 8 Apr 81)	88
Correspondent Notes Rivalries in Sikh Politics (THE STATESMAN, 7 Apr 81)	90
Patrols on Bangladesh Border To Be Strengthened (THE STATESMAN, 7 Apr 81)	91
Assam Police Official Charged With Subversion (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 5 Apr 81)	92
Commission in Gujarat To Examine Reservations (THE STATESMAN, 4 Apr 81)	94
Import Policy for 1981-82 Announced in Lok Sabha (THE HINDU, 4 Apr 81)	95
Details of Policy Banned, Canalized Items	
Report on Indian-Italian Joint Communique of 3 Apr (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 4 Apr 81)	101
Writer Scores Changes in Food-for-Work Program (B. S. Padmanabhan; THE HINDU, 7 Apr 81)	102
Delhi Issues New Guidelines for Food-for-Work (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Apr 81)	104
Rivers Commission Chairman Reports on Dacca Talks (PATRIOT, 5 Apr 81)	105
State Planning Ministers Hold Delhi Meeting (PATRIOT, 5 Apr 81)	107
World Bank Approves Loan for Fertilizer Project (THE STATESMAN, 3 Apr 81)	109

Study Shows Wheat Exports May Be Necessary (THE STATESMAN, 3 Apr 81)	110
Bangalore Institute Works on Advanced Hybrid Rocket (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Apr 81)	111
Transport Minister Tells Plans for Shipping Increase (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Apr 81)	112
Scheme To Interlink River Systems Developed (PATRIOT, 7 Apr 81)	114
Power Generation Increased by 13 Percent (PATRIOT, 6 Apr 81)	115
Developments in Electrical Energy Supply Noted (Baldeo Sahai; PATRIOT, 7 Apr 81)	116
Record Iron and Steel Production Reported in March (THE STATESMAN, 6 Apr 81)	119
Modernization Plan for Bhilai Steel Plant Told (T.E.R. Simhan; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Apr 81)	120
Decline in Steel Output Reportedly Halted (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	122
Sethi Reports on Oil Supply, Ministry Plans (THE HINDU, 3 Apr 81)	123
Oil Output From Bombay High To Be Increased (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 3 Apr 81)	125
Offshore Exploration in Mahanadi Basin Suspended (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 6 Apr 81)	128
Delhi Urged To Publish ILO Report on Mines in India (THE STATESMAN, 7 Apr 81)	129
Briefs	
Soviet Meteorologists Arrive	130
Punjab Border Battalions	130
Kerala Congress(U) Leader	130
Plea for Kerala	131
India-Maldives Trade Pact	131
New Northeast Governor	131
Manipur Congress(I) Defectors	131
New Envoys Named	131
Sikh Official's Statement	132
Landless Farm Workers	132
Polytetrafluoroethylene Manufacture	132
Power Station Plans	132
AIADMK Expels Ramaswamy	133
Defense Academy Chief	133

REPORT ON SECOND DAY OF DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE PARLEY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hussain were elected President and General Secretary of Democratic League on Sunday on the second day of the three-day biennial conference of Democratic League.

On the second day the councillors discussed the General Secretary's report and the Subject Committee which met at 8 p.m. discussed the constitution and manifesto of the party. All the party leaders including Mr. Oli Ahad attended the meeting. The meeting was held under strict security.

While discussing the General Secretary's report a number of councillors raised the question of the statement by some party leaders asking the party men to sever all connections with the party.

Shah Moazzem Hussain stated that these people were conspiring within the party to break the organisation. "They are the intruders from BNP", he added. He sought the sanction of the councillors to take action against them and the councillors gave him the mandate.

It may be mentioned here that the six leaders of the party severed connection with the party and Gano Muslim League had withdrawn from the Democratic League.

BSS adds: Twenty-five speakers including district representatives took part in discussions on General Secretary's report on the second day of the biennial conference of Democratic League according to party sources.

The session began in the morning with the party chief Khandaker Mustaq Ahmed in the chair. The afternoon session was presided over by Senior Vice-President Oli Ahad.

After the discussions on the General Secretary's report the Subject Committee went into closed door session.

CSO: 4220/7538

DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE SPLIT WIDENS, LEADERS DEFECT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Four members of the central committee of the Democratic League (DL) severed their relationship with the party on Saturday when DL went into its first national council session further highlighting the split in the party.

Those who left the party included Messrs Mahbubul Huq Dulan Faziur Rahman Khan Shafiqui Islam Chowdhury Nakhtiar Uddin Chowdhury and Advocate Saleh Jahur. Another central committee member Barrister Syed Quamrul Islam Md Salahuddin announced his resignation from the party on Friday.

The split that began with the resignation of Syed Quamrul Islam is likely to widen further according to party sources.

Mr Mahbubul Huq Dulan and three other DL leaders in a statement to the Press on Saturday accused Democratic League Chief Khandkar Moshtaque Ahmed of favouring persons associated with BKSAL ideology and said that though he (Khandkar Moshtaque) was eager to enjoy the fruits of the historical change of August 15 1975 he was reluctant to bear the political responsibility of it.

They said that the DL chief had deviated from the party policy and objectives during the last one year.

Though the statements of Khandkar Mostaque and the party General Secretary differed a lot he (Moshtaque) supported both the divergent views thereby creating disunity among the party the defected leaders alleged.

They said "Khandkar Moshtaque has been contributing to a "disastrous situation" within the party by his dream of capturing power through some mysterious means".
[as published]

The leaders called upon all responsible workers to quit the Democratic League.

CSO: 4220/7536

REPORTS ON SPEECHES AT DINNER FOR SAUDI VISITOR

Bangladesh Foreign Minister's Speech

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Prof M Shamsul Huq on Sunday expressed confidence that the visit of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal would further strengthen and consolidate the excellent relations and open up a new horizon in cooperation between two countries reports BSS.

Hosting a dinner in honour of the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prof Huq described the present visit as 'too short' and said that he looked forward to receiving him (Prince Saud) and other leaders from brotherly [as published] country of Saudi Arabia in the near future.

Prof Huq said that the people of Bangladesh were engaged in the challenging task of economic and social development. 'Your aim is to achieve a self-reliant economy designed to improve the overall quality of life of our people,' he said adding 'we are thankful to the esteemed Government of Saudi Arabia for their fraternal participation in our development efforts.'

Referring to the Bangladeshi nationals engaged in various development projects in Saudi Arabia Prof Huq expressed satisfaction that in this great task of national development of our two countries. We are able to cooperate closely by sharing our resources human and material--to the mutual benefit of our two fraternal peoples on a complementary basic.' [as published]

The Foreign Minister said that the people of Bangladesh had been watching with much admiration the striking success achieved by Saudi Arabia under the wise and dynamic leadership of King Khaled, Crown Prince Fahd and Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz in bringing about a rapid economic and social transformation in Saudi Arabia.

Zionist Atrocities

Referring to the critical phase in the history of Islamic world the Foreign Minister said that the Middle East remained as area of continued tension and conflict and the situation there had assumed an alarming magnitude because of the Zionist intransigence. [as published] Our hearts bleed for our Arab and Palestinian brethren who are victims of inhuman atrocities, he said and reiterated Bangladesh's

firm conviction that an enduring peace in the Middle East can be established only on the basis of total unconditional withdrawal of Israelis from all Arab territories restoration of legitimate rights of the Palestinians including their right to have an independent state of their own homeland.

Prof Huq noted with great anguish the continuing armed conflict between Iran and Iraq and said that Bangladesh as member of Islamic goodwill mission will not relent in its efforts to bring about an early end to the conflict. [as published] He expressed satisfaction that the peace mission had "of late achieved some concrete results" and prayed that two brotherly countries "may soon agree to end the tragic and fratricidal war through a just and honourable settlement."

Describing the continuing crisis in Afghanistan as a matter of deep pain and concern Prof Huq reiterated Bangladesh's demand for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghan soil. He also end [words illegible] the initiative of Tail sum [words illegible] solution of the [rest of sentence illegible].

Saudi Foreign Minister's Speech Text

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Apr 81 pp 5, 6

[Text] Excellency Prof Mohammad Shamsul Huq Minister of Foreign Affairs, Your Excellencies gentlemen.

Allow me to express to you, on behalf of my country, my Sovereign, the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, and on behalf of my Colleagues the Members of the delegation, and on my own behalf our deep and sincere thanks and gratitude for the hospitality you were kind enough to extend to us during this visit, which gives us the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the affairs of this Muslim country which is very dear to us and which played and is still playing an excellent role in the community of Muslim nations, whether through its efforts in the Organisation of Islamic Conference or through bilateral relations among Muslim states.

To prove what I have just mentioned, it is enough to refer to the true and commendable efforts made and are still being made by H E President Ziaur Rahman whether as a member in the Al-Quds Committee or, in the Good Offices Committee to solve the problem between Iran and Iraq.

These efforts made by H E the President in cooperation with his brothers their Majesties and Excellencies the Kings and Presidents prove it proof is required, their deep sincerity and continuous interest in the welfare of the Muslim Ummah in liberating its Holy Places and in eliminating the causes of disputes and differences among the followers of Islam. [as published]

I avail myself of this opportunity to salute H E the President and his brothers, the Kings and Presidents and pray to Almighty Allah with you and with all Muslims every where to crown these sincere efforts with complete success.

Your Excellency,

Our meeting today comes only a few months after the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca Al-Mukerramah. This summit conference is considered an historical and a glorious event that brought all Muslim peoples together at a time badly needed for solidarity and brotherhood to confront the serious challenges that face the Muslim countries. At a time when action and mobilisation of abilities are badly needed to liberate the Islamic Holy Places and regain the usurped rights, and a time when it is necessary to adopt measures to fulfill the Islamic awakening with the aim of holding the Islamic cause aloft and raising the word of Almighty Allah.

Praise is due to Almighty Allah for guiding the leaders of the Islamic Nation during the historical Summit Conference and for helping them to adopt resolutions and recommendations for fulfilling, by the Grace of Allah, the hopes of the Muslim nation in various political, economical, social and cultural fields. We are without doubt determined to follow up on these resolutions and recommendations and to put them into action for the welfare and prosperity of the Muslim nation and humanity at large. The Mecca Declaration has crowned the activities of the historical Summit Conference and has come as a message to the Muslim nation representing the future view of its hopes and aiming at glory for the Muslim countries and welfare and peace for the society of all nations.

It gives me pleasure to praise the important role Reading the success of the Conference that was played by the Bangladesh delegation headed by H E President Ziaur Rahman and with the membership of Your Excellency. [as published]

Your Excellency,

Dear Brothers,

As a Muslim nation, we have proved to the whole world that in our dealings we believe in right and legality that we establish our friendship with others on these principles which are deeply rooted in our minds. Consequently, our struggle with Israel is, as a matter of fact a struggle between right and wrong. Right will have to prevail at the end by the Grace of Almighty [as published] Allah. The Muslim nations is determined to take all measures and extend all efforts however Many sacrifices have to be made to liberate the Islamic Holy places. [as published] We shall accept no substitute in place of Al-Quds and no substitute for the rights of our Palestinian brethren. Israel in its daily behaviour is challenging international public opinion and the sentiments of hundreds of millions of Muslims and makes a mockery of the resolutions adopted by international organisations and the world community.

Our attitude towards any treaty or agreement that neglects the basic rights of the Palestinian Muslim people and the Islamic Holy places requires therefore no more explanation or manifestation. It is based on right and justice and represents the unanimous decision of the Muslim nation. The continuous and increasing aggression of Israel in South Lebanon requires our determined support for Lebanon to guarantee its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

What complicates the international situation further is to see a big power responsible for peace threatening small nations with arms and military invasion. We

cannot be indifferent towards the far reaching results of such a conflict within this important region. So long as injustice and aggression continue it is the duty of Muslim Governments and the Community of Nations to face their responsibility firmly.

You no doubt share our belief; when we confirm; that any delay in solving the Afghan problem; and in the withdrawal of the Soviet forces of occupation from Afghanistan; and in enabling the Afghan people to decide their own future freely; and in creating the circumstances for the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes peacefully and honourably; will be at the expense of international peace and the security and stability of the region. (as published)

While speaking about problems and challenges that face our Muslim Nation we notice with the utmost concern and sadness the disputes between Iran and Iraq and the serious consequences not only for these two countries but also for the Muslim countries in general and the peoples in the area in particular. We therefore; hopefully look forward towards all efforts that are being exercised at present with the aim of putting an end to this conflict. I mention in particular the efforts of the Good Offices Islamic Committee.

Your Excellency,

Dear Brothers,

Experiences has proved; (as published) that in order to fulfil our hopes and ambitions, there is no other way except to adopt a common Islamic action and believe in its necessity whether in our bilateral dealings or through our responsibilities as members in a single body represented by the Organisation of Islamic Conference. (as published) It is a wellknown (as published) fact that Islamic cooperation is not limited to one aspect or one field of cooperation.

Your Excellency,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been cooperating with other states to see that justice prevails in international relations and to eliminate all causes of dispute and tension in many parts of the world so that peace and prosperity can flourish. Our points of view are identical in matters concerning principles of international relations based on respect of independence, sovereignty and non-interference (as published) in internal affairs, and on the rights (as published) of all nations to determine freely their own future without any external pressure.

Your Excellency, Since political stability depends upon economic stability We, therefore strongly support international efforts aimed at reaching a New International Economic Order and for achieving (as published) more justice and taking into account the rights of both developing and developed nations; and for paving the way (as published) for taking the necessary measures for establishing a more balanced relation between economic development and political stability.

The efforts towards establishing such a new order require a comprehensive look at all economic and social aspects of development based mainly on positive understanding and cooperation. The advanced industrial states should understand that their technical and industrial superiority will not guarantee the continuity of

welfare and stability for these states, unless they fully participate with their technical know-how in promoting development schemes, in various developing countries. The states of the world today are no longer living in isolation. They have, in fact, gone a long way in strengthening the fact of mutual interdependence, and cooperation.

Your Excellency,

It gives me pleasure (as published) to praise the excellent (as published) relations between our two countries. I note with satisfaction that cooperation between our two brotherly countries have covered a number of broad sectors within a very short time. (as published) We share your opinion and desire in support of this cooperation and in looking forward toward new horizons in the field of brotherly relation. We also confirm the desire of continuous consultation and cooperation between our two countries and extend all efforts for the good of our two countries our two peoples and the Islamic nation as a whole.

We in Saudi Arabia have special appreciation for the wise and moderate (as published) policy adopted by H. E. President Ziaur Rahman for the sake of progress and stability. We also follow proudly and with interest all achievements in developing for a better future and respectable life for the brotherly nation of Bangladesh. We praise the active role played by Bangladesh in supporting all issues in the Muslim world and its positive participation for the welfare and prosperity of the Muslim nation and its support of rights and justice all over the world.

Allow me, Your Excellency, to salute this hospitable country, its President, its Government and its people and the high position your country enjoys in the Islamic and international field. I wish Bangladesh more progress and prosperity under its wise leadership.

CSO: 4220/7541

RASHEED CHOUDHURY NEW FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Apr 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, currently Ambassador to Saudi Arabia has been appointed Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in succession to Mr S.A.M.S. Kibria who has been appointed Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok, according to a Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Choudhury is expected to join his post by May 1, 1981.

Mr Choudhury was born in Sylhet in 1928. He obtained Bachelor's degree in Science from Aligarh Muslim University and got Master's degree in International Law and International Relations from the Institute of World Affairs, London. He also attended Inner Temple, London and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, USA.

Mr Choudhury belongs to 1951 batch of the erstwhile Pakistan Foreign Service and served in various capacities in a number of Pakistan Missions including those in Rome, Baghdad, Paris, Lisbon, Jakarta and New Delhi.

During the War of Independence, he transferred his allegiance to the Government of Bangladesh while posted at New Delhi and was later appointed as Chief of the Bangladesh Mission in New Delhi.

After Independence, [as published] Mr Choudhury was appointed the first Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Federal Republic of Germany in 1972 and was concurrently accredited to Switzerland, Austria and the Vatican. He also served as the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Vienna.

In 1976, Mr Choudhury was appointed the first Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and was concurrently accredited to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman. He also served as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah.

He is married and has two children.

CSO: 4220/7540

BANGLADESH-SAUDI JOINT COMMUNIQUE SUMMARIZED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Apr 81 pp 1, 3

[Text] Saudi Arabia has assured of continued and enhanced cooperation in the development efforts of Bangladesh in accordance with the priorities of the Bangladesh Government.

In a joint communique issued on Monday at the end of a three-day visit to Bangladesh of Prince Saud al-Faisal bin Abdul Aziz, Foreign Minister, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud expressed his admiration for the "impressive progress made by the people of Bangladesh through their dedicated and determined efforts under the dynamic leadership of President Ziaur Rahman".

The communique said that the two sides explored the possibility of increasing the volume of trade and commerce between the two countries, and also underlined the importance of further widening the areas of cooperation in economic, scientific, cultural and educational fields.

The two Foreign Ministers held a series of talks in an atmosphere marked by mutual trust, cordiality and fraternal understanding. They reviewed the overall bilateral relations and discussed regional and international matters of mutual concern and reaffirmed their mutual desire to further strengthen and consolidate the friendly cooperation in all fields beneficial to both the countries.

Economic Coop

The communique said that the two Foreign Ministers reviewed the bilateral relations and expressed their profound satisfaction at the progress achieved in the development of mutual economic cooperation in all spheres based on shared history and economic objectives.

While reviewing the global political situation the two Foreign Ministers underscored the importance of increasing efforts by all countries for promoting and strengthening international peace, security and harmony. They reiterated their avowed policy of strict adherence to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Solidarity Among Muslim Countries

Stressing the need for unity and solidarity among the Muslim countries, the two Foreign Ministers called for closer cooperation among the members of the

Organisation of Islamic Conference in all fields. They hailed the decisions adopted at the Third Islamic Summit and the historic Mecca Declaration and reiterated their strong determination to closely cooperate for the speedy implementation of the objectives and decisions of the declaration.

Zionist Aggression

The two Foreign Ministers voiced their concern over the alarming escalation of the Zionist aggression against the Arab and Islamic world including the Palestinian people in flagrant violation [as published] of the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations and other world bodies.

They reaffirmed that a just and lasting peace in Middle East could be achieved only on the basis of total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the restoration of the legitimate and inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to have a state of their own in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO. They also totally rejected the recent Israeli act to annex the holy city of Jerusalem as illegal and invalid and gross violation of all international laws and conventions.

Afghanistan

While discussing the Afghanistan problem the two Foreign Ministers reiterated their demands for immediate withdrawal of all Soviet troops from the Afghan soil and the need for creation of conditions in Afghanistan so as to enable its people to determine freely their own destiny without any external interference or intervention.

The two Foreign Ministers voiced their concern over the continuing fratricidal hostilities between Iran and Iraq and reiterated their appeal for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an amicable and honourable solution of their disputes. They called upon the two brotherly Muslim countries to respond positively to the call of nine-member Islamic Peace Commission for an immediate end to the conflict.

Indian Ocean

They also reiterated their full support for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and its natural extensions and reaffirmed that safeguarding of security and stability in the Gulf areas was the responsibility of the Gulf states. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh welcomed formation of the regional council of the Arab Gulf states for cooperation.

The communique said that the two Foreign Minister [as published] expressed their strong opposition to colonialism, neo-colonialism, racialism and hegemonism [as published] in any form or manifestation. In this regard they condemned South Africa and expressed solidarity with the brotherly people of Azania and Namibia.

Reviewing the international economic situation, the two Foreign Ministers expressed their resolve to continue to work together and strive for the establishment of the new international economic order based on equity and justice. In this connection, they noted with satisfaction the lead provided by the Third Islamic Summit

by emphasising the need for immediate, special and substantial assistance on a priority basis to the least developed countries and also the concrete step taken by creating a fund for this purpose. They also reiterated their commitment to work for the success of the Paris conference on the LDCs.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh apprised the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia of the developments in South Asia and the consistent (as published) efforts of Bangladesh towards improving and strengthening its relations with the neighbouring countries and creating a climate conducive to peace and stability in the region. He also briefed him on the proposal of Bangladesh President for regional cooperation among the nations of South Asia. The Saudi Foreign Minister expressed his deep appreciation for these endeavours of President Ziaur Rahman aimed at promoting peace, stability and cooperation among the countries in the region.

Prince Saud al-Faisal extended an invitation to Prof Shamsul Huq to visit Saudi Arabia, which was accepted.

CSO: 4220/7542

NAVAL VESSEL COMMISSIONED AT CHITTAGONG

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] Chittagong, April 11: BNS Shaheed Salahuddin was commissioned on Friday by Bangladesh Navy at a simple but impressive ceremony at Chittagong Port, reports BSS.

Chief of Staff if (as published) Bangladesh Navy Rear-Admiral M R Khan handed over the commission form on behalf of the President.

Speaking on the occasion Rear-Admiral M R Khan said that formerly M V Hizbul Bahr has been renamed after the Shaheed Captain Salaluddin who fought and died in the Kamalapur sector in 1971 liberation war.

The Naval chief said that Navy's duty should not be bounded by only protecting water resources rather it should extend its hand in research field also. BNS Shaheed Salahuddin will be Navy's first research, scientific and technology ship in this respect he said.

Admiral Khan said that help from friendly countries would be sought through the concerned Ministry to equip and man the ship properly. He said our water resources had not been surveyed and this ship would serve that purpose. Navy personnel would be sent abroad for training, he said.

Referring to the welfare programme of naval personnel, he said that staff quarters for them in Chittagong, Kaptai and Khulna would be doubled.

CSO: 4220/7540

DIRECTORATE OF PRIMARY MASS EDUCATION FORMED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Apr 81 p 12

[Text] The Government has formally set up a separate Primary and Mass-education directorate. The proposal for establishing the Directorate was approved by the Government during the last week of March.

The new Directorate has two wings--one on primary education and another on mass-education. Each wing will be headed by a Director. A director general will head the Directorate.

Pending the appointment of a director general and two directors in the Primary and Mass Education Directorate the government has asked the Director of Public Instruction (DPI) to act as the director general of the new organisation.

Before setting up of the new directorate there was a wing on primary education at the Directorate of Public Instructions. With the separation of the primary education wing a new name is likely to be given to the old directorate. [as published] A Ministry of Education source told the TIMES that the Directorate of Public Instructions is now likely to be named Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education.

All the primary schools of the country and the Primary Training Institutes (PTIs) have been transferred to the Directorate of Primary and Mass-Education.

Pry Edu Officer

At present there is no supervisory staff exclusively for primary education at the field level to come under the jurisdiction of the new directorate. However new sub-divisional primary education officers to be appointed for establishing the local education authorities will serve under it.

The Directorate of Primary and Mass Education will function at the existing DPI building for the Ministry of Education do not feel the necessity of constructing a new building for the purpose at the moment. The government is considering the appointment of new staff needed for the new directorate.

The mass-education wing will undertake the responsibility of organising and coordinating mass-literacy programme. [as published]

Both the heads of the Primary and Mass Education Directorate and the Secondary and higher Education Directorate will hold the rank and status of a Joint Secretary. The post of the head of the Secondary and Higher Education Directorate ~~etc~~ is likely to be renamed Director General of Secondary and Higher Education, the Ministry of Education source added.

CSO: 4220/7536

EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Apr 81 p 3

[Text] The Government has formally established the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority with effect from today (Tuesday), the first day of Bengali New Year, 1388 for the operation management and control of Export Processing Zones in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

A Bill for establishment of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in December last year and it was proposed that during the Second Five-Year Plan period three such zones would be established in the country.

An official handout on Monday night said the first of these zones had been established in Chittagong, known as the Chittagong Export Processing Zone where facilities for setting up export-oriented industries have been provided.

The Export Processing Zone is a project first of its kind in Bangladesh and is designed to attract private investment, specially foreign private investment, in export-oriented industries and create new employment opportunities for Bangladeshi nationals.

The Authority has invited applications for setting up industries in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone by investors at home and abroad, the handout said.

CSO: 4220/7542

JUTE MILL DIRECTOR TALKS ON REGAINING MARKET

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] Jessore, April 11: The Director of Finance, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation Mr. Abdul Hamid Molla stressed the need for regaining demand of our jute goods in foreign markets at any cost because the economy of Bangladesh is mainly dependant [as published] on jute export.

He was inaugurating the Jessore Zonal Office of BJMC at Karbala Road of Jessore town recently. Mr. K L Rahman, Director of Marketing, BJMC, presided over the inaugural function.

Mr. Halim Molla said we have lost the foreign markets due to international conspiracy but the inefficiency of our mill managers have contributed to it in no small measure. He said we can regain the market only if we can reduce the cost of production. He questioned why there is a gulf of difference between the cost of produces of Afil Jute Mills and that of Jessore Jute Industries. We can minimise the cost of production if we work with a patriotic zeal keeping in view the national interest, he said.

Mill Administration

Mr. Hamid disclosed that with a view to gear up the mills administration and management, the BJMC has set up nine zones instead of five and hoped that with the establishment of a separate zone for Jessore district, there would be constant vigilance and guidance in nine jute mills within its jurisdiction.

Power Crisis

In his presidential speech Mr. K L Rahman dwelt on the hindrances to our export trade and disclosed that the BJMC should earn Taka 1,300 to 1,500 crore in foreign currency this year by exporting jute goods provided all officials are honest and dutiful.

He however, regretted that serious power crisis was adversely affecting the production. He urged all concerned of the district to help them in materialising their programmes.

Messrs Tauhidur Rahman, a local journalist, Mr. Jafar Ahmed Khan, General Manager of the BJMC, Jessore zone, Mr. Manzoorul Islam Khan, DGM of Jessore Jute Industries were among other to speak. [as published]

Aus Programme

Another report adds: An ambitious scheme has been undertaken to cultivate Aus paddy in 6,04,000 acres of land in Jessore district during the current season.

Under the scheme 3,24,000 acres would be brought under intensified Aus cultivation scheme while the balance 2,80,000 acres would be under normal cultivation. The total production target has been earmarked as 2,53,000 tons of which 1,06,000 tons would be produced in project areas.

The District Agriculture Committee at recent meeting sanctioned 210 power pumps free of cost to the cultivators with a view to implement the Aus programme. Besides, 126 power pumps [as published] would be engaged with five more deep tubewells. The meeting also decided to provide sufficient quantities of fertiliser and insecticides to make the programme a success.

CSO: 4220/7540

FOOD MINISTER REPORTS ON WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Ghorashal April 5:--Mr. Abdul Momen Khan, Minister for Food said here today that Government had so far worked out 12 projects under which more than 2,700 godowns would be constructed in different parts of the country by the end of 1984-85, reports BSS.

The Food Minister was formally inaugurating a newly constructed godown here this morning. Mrs Shahina Khan MP, was also present on the occasion.

Mr. Khan said that the construction work of 824 godowns is now going on in full swing and expected to be completed by the end of this year.

In this connection the Minister said that of this 19 godowns would be constructed in Narsingdi subdivision alone.

Speaking on the internal procurement the Minister said that Government had intensified internal procurement to give price support to the farmers as well as to ensure steady supply of foodgrains to landless people at a reasonable price.

The Minister emphasised the need for taking all possible initiative to increase food productions so that the depending on foreign imports of foodgrains could be stopped totally. In this respect the Minister said that no foodgrains had yet been imported during this year in exchange of our own purse.

Mr. Khan called upon the people to cooperate with Government to carry on efficiently food production programme so that the country could achieve food autarky soon referring to the Government's achievement in food sector the Minister said that Government had satisfactory food stock to face any situation except those thrown up by unforeseen calamities. [as published]

He pointed out how the Government successfully combated two food situation during the last drought and flood.

CSO: 4220/7538

BRIEFS

PARTY MERGER--Mr. Ahmed Mirza Khabir, General Secretary, Jatiyatabadi Gonotantrik Dal (Jagodal) at a Press conference at the Jatiya Press Club on Friday announced the dissolution of the party and its merger with the Democratic League led by Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed. Mr Khabir criticised the role of Awami League, JSD and CPB in the country's politics. He was also critical of the internal and external policies of the present government. The Press conference was attended, among others, by the General Secretary of the Democratic League Shah Moazzem Hussain. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Apr 81 p 3]

F&C VISITORS--A group of five Chinese government officials from the People's Republic of China has just completed a study tour of Bangladesh to familiarise themselves with the Government's Food-for-Work and Vulnerable Group Feeding programmes says a WFP Press release. With World Food Programme now assisting resettlement and agricultural development schemes in China the tour was planned to afford the officials a chance to observe [as published] projects of similar type in this country; currently the world's largest beneficiary of WFP food aid. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Apr 81 p 8]

CSO: 4220/7536/7539

LOK DAL DISSIDENTS FORM NEW POLITICAL POLICY

Delhi Press Conference

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] Former UP Chief Minister Benarsi Das and Mr Chandrajit Yadav, MP, who had been thrown out of Mr Charan Singh's Lok Dal, have decided to form a new party--called Janawadi (Democratic) Party at a two-day national convention beginning in the Capital on Sunday.

The two leaders, along with some other former Lok Dal leaders Maulana S. A. Hashmi, MP, and Mr Chhangur Ram, MP, were functioning for sometime after their exit from Mr Charan Singh's party under the name of the Loktantrik Lok Dal. This temporary name was given with the purpose of working as a group in the Legislatures and Parliament.

The national convention has been called in the name of the LLD and as many as over 5,000 delegates from all parts of the country are going to participate in it at the Kisan-Mazdoor Nagar at Perozeshah Kotla Ground on Sunday and Monday, Mr Das and Mr Yadav said in the Capital on Saturday.

Briefing newsmen on the eve of the convention, they said the decision to form a new party (which is going to be ratified at the convention) was taken by the steering committee of the convention on Saturday. The steering committee also decided on the party's flag and finalised the main resolution on the political and economic situation of the country to be placed at the convention.

The flag, Mr Yadav explained, would be a tricolour with red (horizontally covering the base) symbolising socio-economic revolution; white (horizontally forming the middle portion) symbolising purity of means and peace, and green (constituting the top portion) symbolising all-round prosperity.

'We feel that today there is a national necessity for a secular, democratic, progressive alternative. Therefore our convention will authorise some persons or a committee as we decide, to take the initiative of negotiating with other secular, democratic and progressive parties to see if one party on the basis of agreed political approach and strategy in tackling national issues, could be formed,' Mr Yadav said.

Asked to clarify which parties he had in mind, Mr Yadav disclosed that already talks had taken place with the leaders of the Congress-U, Bahuguna group and

Mr Raj Narain's party. 'But one thing is clear--we have all been prohibited to hold any discussion with the BJP. Under no circumstances will we talk to the BJP leaders.'

Asked about talks with the Lok Dal headed by Mr Charan Singh, Mr Yadav said: 'We do not rule out talks with the Lok Dal. But if the Lok Dal hobnobs with the BJP then we will have nothing to do with it. [as published]

Replying to another question as to why they wanted to set up another party when their objective was to build up a national alternative through cohesion of several parties, Mr Das said: "We wanted a platform to jump for the alternative. We did not want to be in the air".

Mr Yadav explained that "in spite of our best intentions" if the efforts for a national alternative fail, then "we will function as a proper party".

He said delegates to the conference were coming from all States barring Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Assam. Already delegates from Kerala, Tamilnadu, Andhra, Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh had reached Delhi, he added.

The main resolution to be adopted on Sunday underlines the fact that the country was passing through the biggest crisis since independence "crisis of confidence in political parties". While people had witnessed the absence of inner-democracy in the ruling party with all political, organisational and administrative powers concentrated in the hands of one individual; simultaneously Opposition parties were also subjected to lack of inner-party democracy creating a situation in which some of these parties were resorting to communal fanaticism and some others falling prey to sectarian opportunism.

Ruling out any patchwork solution, the resolution calls for a drastic overhaul of economic policies, political practices, social behaviour, administrative norms and cultural values. It assails power in a few hands, growth of monopolies, great economic strain on middle classes and subhuman conditions in which bulk of the population is living below the poverty line. In such a situation "bonds of social harmony and national integration forged under the flames of the independence struggle are under great threat".

The resolution also attacks the Central Government for trying to create a situation of confrontation with non-Cong-I Governments in the States, pointing to the present developments in West Bengal.

National Convention Held

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Apr 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Launching a new political organisation, called the Janawadi (Democratic) Party, at a national convention of erstwhile Lok Dal workers in the Capital, Mr Chandrajit Yadav, MP on Sunday urged all those holding identical views on social, economic and international issues to unite with the purpose of stemming the rot that has set in the national political life.

Mr Yadav, who was delivering his presidential address at the two-day convention attended by over 5,000 delegates from all over the country said such a unity

was a 'national necessity' and "this alone can form the basis of a national alternative".

Among those who sat on the dais were former UP Chief Minister Banarsi Das, Maulana S A Hashmi MP and Mr Chhangur Ram, MP. Mr Das moved the main political and economic resolution of the convention.

Warning that authoritarian forces would become stronger in the absence of such an alternative, Mr Yadav, however, cautioned against following the beaten track in the light of the Janata experience. "Such an alternative," he said, "cannot be forged by merely bringing together a few leaders and their parties and entering into some opportunistic understanding and political manoeuvres. People, have been fed up with this kind of policies. [as published] The bitter experience of the Janata Government is still fresh in their memory and such a conglomeration does not inspire any confidence in them."

Amidst warm applause from the delegates, who packed the Bahadur Shah Zafar pandal at the Kisan-Mazdoor Nagar set up at Ferozeshah Kotla Ground for the convention, he declared: "Continuous public service, people's movement and positive programme and strategy based on consensus and the unity born out of movements and struggles alone can provide the desired solution. Efforts made to bring about a unity at the time of elections have lost their credibility with the people."

"Let me make it clear that my concept of unity of different Opposition parties and the national alternative will have no place for communal parties, like the Jana Sangh and the RSS. On the contrary, we will be required to launch a relentless struggle against those responsible for spreading hatred among communities and inciting communal riots. This alone will ensure the demolition of such forces from our social and political life. This again would be achieved by creating mass consciousness and seeking [as published] people's cooperation".

Criticising the ruling party for the present day ills, Mr Yadav did not mince words to assail the role of the other political parties as well. In a highly self-critical tone, he said, the masses were feeling cheated "by every political party and its leaders".

Not only were the parties and leaders of the Opposition holding almost similar views on socio-economic programmes and national and international questions split in different organisations, the issues related to public life, which should have brought them together, had failed to do so "thanks to their narrow political approach", he said.

He further highlighted the "greater importance being given to persons rather than parties" and the "entire politics being dominated by the personality cult" fraught with the "dangers of autocracy".

In such a situation, he wanted the people's initiative for a "new movement" which could bring about a radical socio-economic transformation through non-violent and peaceful means. "To achieve this object an organisation will have to be built up which has its roots in the masses of the country, whose goals will be to work amongst them and for them. It will draw [as published] strength from them and make them its soldiers and also evolve a leader from amongst them to bring about the change.

"This calls for the creation of a social upheaval, a new awareness and a people's power in the true sense of the term. Let us come forward and take up the challenge of building up this power", he added.

Referring to the circumstances which led to his and other leaders' withdrawal from the Lok Dal, Mr Yadav felt the party had the potential to make a strong opposition force, but this could not be possible "owing to the narrow and undemocratic stance of the (party's) present leadership".

Leadership Attacked

Without mentioning Mr Charan Singh by name, he said: "The anti-Harijan and anti-Muslim attitude of the present Lok Dal leadership has weakened the unity of those national forces which are essential for a new socio-economic change. Such an attitude has further weakened the peasant-worker unity. In its organisational working also it is totally undemocratic and it is not prepared to allow any freedom inside the party. A party which does not follow democratic norms in its working can never claim to uphold the democratic set-up itself."

Mr Yadav was, however, gratified to find the Lok Dal rank-and-file, "as also a section of its leadership", disapproving this approach and the way the party functioned. "I hope a broader outlook will develop inside the party and the democratic and secular forces will gain strength and help the forces wedded to common ideologies to unite and work for the common people", he said.

Mr Yadav traced the all-round discontentment across the land-mass, to "the defects of the capitalist system"--from inflation, rising prices, hoarding, black marketing, growth of monopolies to the use of administration by vested interests for feathering their own nests. He said while the parliamentary system was "successfully operating", in reality the "common masses have been denied real democracy" with money power not only corrupting politics but also strengthening the stranglehold of capitalist-monopolistic system. The situation had worsened by the full exploitation of "casteist trends in the power politics" of the nation without any regard for class organisation. In this the ruling party was as much guilty as the Opposition. He also referred to the farmers' struggle for remunerative prices, and said "it loses [as published] its strength when the farmers do not struggle unitedly as a class, but are divided into castes".

He called for radical changes in economic policies, re-allocation of Plan priorities in the interests of common masses and backward sections, united opposition to the administration's rabid communal approach to Hindu-Muslim riots, especially in the wake of Moradabad incidents, full support to the policy of reservations as upheld by the Constitution and basic changes in electoral system.

Mr Yadav underscored that the Indian people could not fight their battle for a better life by keeping themselves insulated from world developments, and urged upon them to 'strengthen the world forces, which want to put an end to wars, are struggling for world peace and are making constant efforts for creating a new international socio-economic order free from exploitation'. He wanted fresh initiatives by India to reinforce the unity of non-aligned nations.

Main Resolutions

The main political and economic resolution, moved by Mr Das stressed the need to restore the democratic traditions and values established during the freedom struggle by Mahatma Gandhi. "The task", it maintained, "is huge and gigantic. It needs pooling together the efforts of all-like-minded parties committed to the ideals of democracy, socialism and secularism. This Convention calls upon the leadership (of the Janawadi Party) to initiate dialogue and explore the possibilities to unite all these forces in a single united party with a common programme and strategy so that a viable, credible and strong alternative may emerge to the present monolithic rule".

The resolution also proposed a 11-point code of conduct for every Janawadi Party member, and raised 11 demands on major burning issues. [as published]

Seconding the resolution, Maulana Hashmi castigated the Government for the events of Moradabad. These events, he said, were not riots but the brutal attacks on minorities by the administration, and yet the Indira Gandhi Government was not worried about these developments.

Mr Satpal Yadav, MLA, charged that Mr Charan Singh, who had played up Maya Tyagi's rape case, had not spoken a single word in support of the minorities in Moradabad. Bringing out the significance of the peasants' march on 26 March, he said: "Our alternative is not to the Lok Dal, our alternative is to Mrs Gandhi". He urged the people to unite to fight Mrs Gandhi's authoritarianism.

Mr Ashoke Bajpai (former UP Education Minister) said the Janata Party was formed for the sake of power, but now the time had come for unity of groups and parties having identical or close political and economic approach.

Several leaders from Tamilnadu also spoke at the convention.

The convention began with the singing of the "Vande Mataram" prior to which the green, white and red tricolour of the new party was unfurled by Mr Yadav to the slogan of "Jai Hind".

A large number of delegates from Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are attending the convention. All States barring West Bengal, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir are represented at the meet.

Discussion on the resolution will continue on Monday.

CSO: 4220/7478

U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PAKISTAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Apr 81 p 8

[Article by K. Subrahmanyam]

[Text] Understandably enough there is considerable discussion in India on the likely magnitude, scope and range of military equipment the US administration will be supplying to Pakistan in the next few years.

Equally understandably, the impact of supply of each category of equipment on the Indian defence is also being evaluated. There is also concern here over the likely destabilising effect of the proposed infusion of U.S. arms and personnel on the Pakistani polity. But in this debate an important issue has not attracted enough attention--the time and legitimisation of the Pakistani nuclear weapon programme.

After he scrapped the 1973 constitution and promulgated his own provisional constitutional order, General Zia-ul-Haq has explicitly stated that he was going to be around as head of the Pakistani state for a year or two. The dissolution of the political parties and creation of a */Majlis-e-Shoora/* [in italics] (council of notables) reinforces the same conclusion--that he has no intention to hold elections in the near future.

General Zia told the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington recently that before Pakistan could pass on arms to Afghan rebels it should be strong enough to withstand Soviet pressure. This was his way of making two points not only for the benefit of Lord Carrington but also of the US and Soviet governments. First, he does not propose to pass on arms to Afghan rebels before the US supplies to Pakistan the sophisticated equipment he is seeking. Secondly, a massive arms supply is a prerequisite condition for his agreeing to consider the question of passing on arms to Afghan rebels.

It would take at least 18 months to two years after Congress enacts the necessary legislation for the hardware to start arriving in Pakistan and then another two to three for the supply to be completed. Thus General Zia is perhaps trying to tell the Soviets that they do not worry on his account for the next three to four years and that as a */quid pro quo/* [in italics] they should leave him in peace.

Legal Hurdle

Before the US starts supplying arms to Pakistan, it will first have to remove the legal hurdle in the form of the Symington amendment which prohibits it from

making arms sales or transfers to any country that is trying to go in for nuclear weapons. This will happen in the next few weeks without General Zia giving an assurance to the US regarding his nuclear programme. For if Pakistan was giving a credible assurance which the US President could accept, there would have been no need to take the proposed legislative steps. And if after Congress does that and Pakistan conducts a nuclear tests, [as published] the US will not be in a position to take exception to it. For the administration and Congress are acting in full knowledge of what Islamabad is up to in the nuclear field.

General Zia would even argue that his reference to Pakistan becoming strong enough to withstand Soviet pressure were in fact meant to cover development of a nuclear capability. [as published] He can quote the doctrine of proportionate deterrence propounded by French strategists according to which a Pakistani capability to hit a few Central Asian Soviet cities would be a strong deterrent for the Soviet Union.

Once General Zia achieves this nuclear capability, a number of his domestic problems can be solved, at least according to his way of thinking. Pakistan can assume the role of the defender of the Gulf, of course on suitable remuneration. It can even help the Americans to keep "beyond the horizon" as desired by Gulf states. Mr. Bhutto's dream of Pakistan commanding the wealth of the Islamic world would be achieved, considerably easing domestic economic problems. With this achievement to his credit General Zia would ride the crest of a wave of popularity for some time.

What General Zia needs is time to reach his nuclear capability and that is what he is shopping for in Washington. His rejection of Mr. Carter's aid offer made sense if his primary need was not hardware but time and legitimisation of his nuclear programme which Carter would not have agreed to. But Mr. Reagan made it known during the election itself that he was flexible on the issue of proliferation. Though Mr. Carter tried to convert this into a major issue, it proved a damp squib, indicating that for the American people also proliferation was not a 'hot' issue. General Zia appears to have drawn the appropriate conclusion.

Beleagured

Some U.S. academics have categorised Israel, South Africa, Pakistan, Taiwan and South Korea into a special category of beleaguered states which seek to ensure their security in a hostile environment through nuclear weapons. All of them have cultivated extensive constituencies in the United States.

For President Reagan Israel constitutes a vital U.S. interest and he has explicitly stated that he favoured closer ties with the South African regime. His eagerness to strengthen ties with Taiwan are well known. The first head of state to visit Washington after the swearing in of Mr. Reagan was the South Korean President. In this overall pattern legitimisation of the Pakistani nuclear programme will fit in neatly.

A section of the US strategic community has argued in the past that such nuclear proliferation cannot be prevented completely, its pace and direction have to be managed. It considered proliferation at the rate of one state per decade acceptable, provided the states concerned were responsible ones, that is pro-US. This trend of argument helped to fit the Israeli and South African nuclear efforts into

the overall US frame-work. It is only logical for this framework to accommodate Pakistan. Pakistan has not ratified the Partial Test Ban Treaty and therefore it is free to conduct an atmospheric test.

The contrast between the way the U.S. press has treated the issue of the proposed annulment of the Symington amendment in favour of Pakistan and the shipment of slightly enriched uranium fuel to India for the Tarapur power reactors is also interesting. It has run an orchestrated campaign against the shipment of fuel to India and tended to play down, if not overlook, the implications of the proposed legislation to enable arms transfers to Pakistan.

On the basis of information he had verified with officials of the Reagan administration, Senator Cranston disclosed that Pakistan was likely to reach nuclear capability by the end of 1982. The Secretary of State, Mr. Haig, chose not to react to Senator Cranston's disclosure with the remark he had not studied the subject.

Francisco Fukuyama of the Rand Corporation, who is joining the Policy Planning Division of the State Department, has stated in his report "The Security of Pakistan: A trip report": "What matters here is that there is probably nothing the United States can do at this point to prevent Pakistan from acquiring a nuclear capability. Sanctions will not forestall the programme, nor will increased conventional arms fully answer the insecurities that push Pakistan towards modernisation. U.S. nonproliferation policy is not unimportant: it is simply not particularly relevant to the question of U.S.-Pakistan security relations."

Washington cannot be indifferent to the Israeli concern over the Pakistani nuclear programme. But if the recent U.S. action in respect of the supply of accessories for Saudi Arabia for its F-15 aircraft is any guide, the administration may offer some offsetting nuclear guarantee to Israel to assuage its sense of insecurity. It may take the form of a pledge of massive retaliation or even preemptive strike if Israel were to be subject to use or threat of use of nuclear force.

The need for the United States to tailor its strategic forces for a preemptive attack on a lesser nuclear power in support of a beleaguered friend has been discussed in the U.S. strategic literature--Lewis Dunn's article on "US Strategic Force Requirements in a Nuclear Proliferated World" in the AIR UNIVERSITY REVIEW July-August 1980, for example.

General Zia is fully aware of Pakistan's vulnerability vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and is not likely to provoke it. But this need not necessarily put him at odds with the U.S. administration. For the basic U.S. aim in the region is not to confront the Soviet Union either in Afghanistan or in Pakistan. It is to ensure the uninterrupted flow of oil from the Gulf and to protect the Gulf states from internal uprisings /a la/ [in italics] Iran and the Grand Mosque affair in November 1979. Thus if Washington can get Pakistan to serve as the policeman of the Gulf and assist the rulers in suppressing any internal uprising it would be willing to pay the price of Pakistani nuclear proliferation.

US Objective

Homeport facilities in Pakistan have been a long sought goal of U.S. armed forces. A former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Admiral Moorer, had strongly advocated this. Earlier the U.S. was hoping to get the Iranian port of Chah Bahar for this purpose. Since that is now out, the need for home ports for the U.S. navy in Pakistan has increased. The congressional research service report on "U.S. Foreign Policy objectives and overseas military installations" prepared for the committee on foreign relations of the U.S. Senate states "The United States also has a potential strategic nuclear objective in the Indian Ocean region, that of deploying, when necessary or convenient, ballistic missiles submarines (SSBN's) targeted on the Soviet Union...the Indian Ocean offers a potential hedge against any Soviet advances in developing an anti-ballistic missile capability, in that the Soviets would have to defend against three avenues of attack instead of two, i.e. Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean. With the inception of the Trident system, with the longer range (longer than 2,500 miles of the Polaris A-3 missiles) Trident I missile, operations in the Indian Ocean could become more feasible."

If the U.S. were to think of deploying Trident Submarines in the Indian Ocean its need for a home port in Pakistan will become even more pressing.

CSO: 4220/7494

REPORT ON GANDHI SPEECHES ON JAMMU TOUR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Jammu, April 5:

The prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, declared here today that the Centre had no intention of toppling non-Congress(I) governments.

Mrs. Gandhi, who made a whirlwind tour of the Jammu region, decried the propaganda by various non-Congress (I) governments that the Centre was bent on dislodging them. She said the Centre had extended help to these governments and they could not exist even for "half an hour" [as published] if this was withdrawn.

Mrs. Gandhi addressed a series of meetings at Kathua, Doda, Udhampur and Jammu. Her first stop was a Kathua, where she went by road from Pathankot. She used a helicopter to visit the other places.

In her speeches, the prime minister dwelt on developments within the country and on the sub-continent as a whole. She made a special reference to Pakistan's efforts to acquire arms and the events which once again put Sheikh Abdullah at the helm of affairs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the "dangerous trends" on the sub-continent, Mrs. Gandhi said the country had to be vigilant.

She said the rich had sponsored agitations to thwart the implementation of the policies which her government had formulated to improve the lot of the weaker sections.

She drew attention to the rise in population and said that though this was a world-wide phenomenon, it had to be controlled in this country where the problem was more acute. Impressive progress had been made in the fields of agriculture and industry but the gains were being nullified by the rise in population.

Review of 1975 Scene

She sought to correct the "distorted" picture of the events in 1975 as a result of which the Sheikh came back to power. It was incorrect to suggest that her party had "surrendered power" to the Sheikh because it had failed to deliver the goods. The Kashmir accord was an attempt at sharing power with the Sheikh in the larger interest of the state.

But these hopes, she said, had been belied. The ruling party (National Conference) had made her also the target of its attack. The "generosity" shown by her had been misunderstood and the Sheikh was demanding that the Congress (I) should wind up its activities in the state and merge in the National Conference.

But the Congress(I) was an all-India party which subscribed to the principles of secularism, democracy and socialism, and attempts by the Sheikh to wear away its members to his camp were bound to flounder.

She said the Centre wanted balanced development of all three regions of the state. The state's sixth plan outlay had been fixed at Rs. 900 crores to achieve this objective.

She referred to the plight of the West Pakistani refugees and described their rehabilitation as a "complicated" problem. She would take up the issue with the state government, but first some constitutional hurdles would have to be cleared.

About arms acquisition by Pakistan, she said the nations rearming Pakistan should find out from whom that country was facing danger. India had never been the aggressor. It had always been the victim of aggression and the arms procured by Pakistan had been used against it.

The prime minister said the dangers facing the country could be met only if there were unity and discipline. She had succeeded in bringing about discipline in the country but whatever she had achieved was undone after her party was voted out of power in 1977.

She said her struggle was against communal elements like the Jana Sangh and the RSS which flourished on communalism and by ignoring the interests of the weaker sections. These elements were responsible for the assassination of the father of the nation but were now swearing by Gandhian socialism. Could such parties be trusted? she asked. She would welcome a genuine change of heart on their part.

During her one-day visit, the prime minister met a number of delegations, including those representing West Pakistani refugees and the chamber of commerce.

CSO: 4220/7480

ASSAM CONGRESS(I) EXECUTIVES' RESOLUTION REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Apr 81 p 1

[Text]

GAUHATI, April 2.—The Congress (I) in Assam wants the Centre to solve the foreigners issue urgently with the help of students in the State to save it from falling prey to the "forces from outside" trying to destabilize the north-eastern region, reports UNL.

A meeting of the executives of the Pradesh Congress (I) and its legislature wing here yesterday said in a resolution, released today, that the "broad spectrum" of these forces, which were trying to destabilize the Government at the Centre was active in Assam and in the north-eastern region.

Six Opposition parties of Assam, including the CPI (ML), are understood to have decided to file a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the constitution validity of continuance of Mrs Taimur's Congress (I) Ministry.

A Staff Reporter in Calcutta adds: Mrs Taimur told reporters at Calcutta airport on Thursday that her Ministry did not face any crisis. "We introduced the cut motion and it is we who withdrew it. The question of a crisis does not arise" she said and added that her Ministry had faced a no-confidence motion and survived it.

Mrs Taimur said there were stray incidents in the State, for which

some "bad elements" among the agitators were responsible. There was no further infiltration into her State. Measures to stop infiltration had been strengthened, she said. The international border between Assam and Bangladesh was being fenced with barbed wire and walls were being built. The strength of guards on the borders was being raised.

Mrs Taimur, who was on her way from Gauhati to New Delhi to attend a meeting of the Planning Commission, said the next session of the Assembly would begin in three months.

Mr Ram Kishore Vyas is tentatively scheduled to succeed Mr L. P. Singh as Governor of the five north-eastern States by the end of April or during the first week of May, adds UNL.

Mrs Gandhi, who is to inaugurate the north-eastern regional co-ordination committee of the Congress (I) on April-11 at Dimapur, is also scheduled to visit Imphal and Silchar the next day.

PTI adds: Through running of trains on the North-eastern Frontier Railway in Assam was resumed at midnight last night after a 14-hour suspension following damage to tracks in bomb explosions and two accidents.

CSO: 4220/7468

DISSIDENTS REPORTED ACTIVE IN ASSAM CONGRESS(I)

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Gauhati, April 2.

With the Anwara Taimur ministry no longer facing immediate threat, the infighting in the Congress (I) in Assam has again come to the fore.

The dissidents, who had suspended their campaign for a change in leadership in the wake of the non-communist opposition threat to the ministry during the budget session of the assembly, have resumed their demand for the removal of Mrs. Taimur.

Her detractors, who include three members of her council of ministers, were today busy drafting a fresh memorandum to be submitted to the prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, during her scheduled visit to Dimapur on April 11.

A memorandum listing serious charges of favouritism, nepotism and dereliction of duty against Mrs. Taimur and containing allegations of corruption against her cabinet colleague, Mr. J. F. Goswami, which was sent through the Union planning minister, Mr. N. D. Tewari, has already reached the prime minister.

Mrs. Gandhi has also received a petition from the eight-member tea garden labour lobby in the ruling party listing its grievances against the chief minister.

The dissidents, numbering 26 in the 47-member Congress (I) legislature party, have, in the draft memorandum being circulated here, highlighted alleged acts of omission and commission and the "lack-lustre" performance of Mrs. Taimur as leader of the party both inside and outside the assembly.

Mr. Joy Chandra Nagbangshi, minister of state for labour, who heads the tea garden labour group of dissidents and who precipitated a crisis by tendering his resignation while the assembly was in session, told this correspondent at Dispur today that they still wanted a change in leadership. "There is no question of truce with Mrs. Taimur. She must go," he stated.

Mr. Nagbangshi, had withdrawn his resignation following the intervention of the Union planning minister, Mr. Tewari, the Union minister of state, Mr. Prem Khandu Thungon and the INTUC chief, Mr. N. K. Bhatt.

Meanwhile, the governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, has sent a report to New Delhi describing the circumstances which led to the prorogation of the budget session and

promulgation of the ordinance authorising state expenditure for the first quarter of 1981-82 from the consolidated fund. He is understood to have justified his action in not dissolving the house and not dismissing the Taimur ministry.

In another report, the governor is reported to have evaluated the performance of the 117-day old Taimur ministry both inside and outside the assembly. The contents, it is understood, are far from flattering to Mrs. Taimur.

Mrs. Taimur left today for Calcutta on her way to New Delhi. She is scheduled to stay there for three days meet the prime minister, and apprise [as published] her of the situation in the state. She is also likely to discuss plans for expansion of the council of ministers.

CSO: 4220/7465

JANATA CANDIDATE, MUSLIM, ELECTED BOMBAY MAYOR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] April 2.

Dr. Alimohamad Umar Memon (59) is the 53rd mayor of Bombay. Fielded by the Janata party and allies, Dr. Memon polled 81 votes against 57 by his rival, Mr. Ramesh Dube, of the Congress(I)-Shiv Sena combine.

One vote was invalid and one Janata member was absent, being out of the country.

Dr. Memon, a Unani practitioner, Urdu poet and writer of ghazals, became the first Muslim mayor in the past 18 years after Mr. Ishaq Bandukwala.

Although Dr. Memon's election was a foregone conclusion, it was watched with keen (as published) interest because of the strenuous efforts made by the Congress (I) to capture the mayoralty. The result showed that the contest went according to expectations.

Mr. Baburao H. Shete, who presided and conducted the election, declared Dr. Memon the new mayor of Bombay for 1981-82. The City Hall reverberated with cries of the "Janata party zindabad, Dr. Memon zindabad" after the announcement.

Dr. Memon garlanded the busts of all national leaders in the hall and then went to Hutatma Chowk to pay homage to the martyrs of the state.

Among those who felicitated Dr. Memon after his election were Dr. Shanti Patel, MP and president of the city unit of the Janata party, Mr. R. A. Patil, Mr. Wamanrao Parab, Mr. H. Upadhyaya, Mr. Bhagwati Shroff and Mr. Bandukwala. Another former mayor, Mr. Salebhoy Abdul Kader, added his congratulations to those of others.

The municipal commissioner, Mr. B. K. Chougule, and the deputy municipal commissioner, Mr. P. P. Kamdar, also offered their felicitations.

Dr. Memon began his first speech as mayor in Marathi and then, bowing to the wishes of the house, continued in Hindi. Requesting the co-operation of all members and of the administration, Dr. Memon promised to find a solution to the problem of slums in consultation with the councillors.

He said he would arrest the deterioration in the existing civic services. He suggested to the state government to explore other means than increasing the floor space index to solve the problem of rebuilding dilapidated buildings.

Dr. Memon suspected there were some defects in the water supply system and urged the commissioner to activate the reservoirs to improve distribution.

The new mayor appealed to the members to restrict their points of order and adjournment motions to the minimum so that the backlog of business could be expeditiously cleared.

CSO: 4220/7465

REPORT ON DEFENCE SCIENTISTS' WORKING CONDITIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, April 2.

The Rajya Sabha's committee on petitions has said that the service and working conditions of scientists in research establishments should be constantly reviewed with a view to improving them when necessary.

The committee has made this recommendation in its 66th report on a petition on the working conditions of scientists in the Solid State Physics Laboratory under the department of defence research and development.

The report, presented to the house during the current session, went into the allegations made in a petition signed by Dr. R. C. Tyagi and came to the conclusion that there was no substance in these charges.

The allegations were regarding sabotage of a top-priority project for the development of infra-red detectors for missiles, financial irregularities in the laboratory, absence of suitable working facilities and lack of encouragement to scientists and unsatisfactory recruitment rules and procedures and service conditions.

Dr. Tyagi had stated in the petition that the infra-red detector programme in the laboratory was sabotaged, the scientist's facilities were withdrawn and he was transferred to a routine teaching job. He said his version had been supported by the management information report of 1976 which had been upheld by the electronics development panel headed by Lt.-Gen. Sapra.

The defence ministry told the committee that a team of scientists, including the petitioner, had worked on the project which was successfully completed in 1977 and thus there was no question of disruption of the project.

According to the ministry, Lt.-Gen. Sapra's report regarding the development of infra-red detectors covered many projects. Out of all the projects, it was only at one place that the scientists were found to have made a mistake in computer reading which they had corrected immediately. The management information report referred to by Dr. Tyagi was a one-time report by a scientist prepared on his own and which he had published outside. There was no regular system of preparing management information reports.

The committee agreed with the ministry that the project was not disrupted or given up and that it was brought to a successful conclusion in 1977. The committee also went through Lt.-Gen. Sapra's report and found nothing in it to support the allegations made by the petitioner.

The committee said nothing was placed by the petitioner before it to support his contention that suitable working facilities had not been made available to scientists in the Solid State Physics Laboratory or that the work of its scientists had not been recognised. The committee noted the fact that six of them had received the President's award for import substitution.

Audit Report

Enough evidence was not furnished to the committee to warrant a conclusion that there was any sense of frustration prevailing among the scientists in the defence organisation in general. The committee examined a special audit report and found that except for some lapses in accounting procedure, there had been no serious financial irregularity in the laboratory.

It also said that the petitioner or any other single individual could not claim credit for developing a technology for infra-red detectors for missiles and flash evaporation attachment since the facts placed before the committee gave a clear impression that this was the result of team work.

CSO: 4220/7465

GANDHI TALKS TO NEWSMEN IN BANGALORE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] Bangalore, April 2 (UNI).

The prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today criticised the tendency to rake up border issues saying there were more serious problems confronting the country now.

Talking to newsmen at Bangalore airport during her brief stop-over on way to Delhi from Kozhikode, she said the country could not afford to have more trouble at present.

She was replying to a newsmen's question on the border disputes among some states pending for too long.

Asked about her recent statement that the Congress(I) chief ministers should be given one-year time to settle down before their performance could be judged, Mrs. Gandhi said that the review (of the performance) was a continuous one and there was no fixed date for such reviews.

Asked whether the Vijayanagar steel plant would come through, she said these things depended on resources. She said she had no idea about it as she was not in touch with it. When a reporter told her that the Vijayanagar steel plant issue was being raised frequently in the state legislature to the embarrassment of the chief minister, Mr. Gundu Rao, who was also present, she said, "Where is the embarrassment. [as published] It is only your presumption."

On the show cause notice issued to former ministers, Mr. S. Bangarappa, Mrs. Gandhi said that he had to reply to it. When a newsmen said that Mr. Bangarappa had already replied to the show cause notice, she said, "I have not seen it".

On the memorandum presented to her by the leaders of the joint action front which spearheaded the recent strike in public sector units here, Mrs. Gandhi said that she would pass on the memorandum to the concerned people.

She was presented with a flag to mark the Karnataka state police flag day today.

She left for Delhi by a special IAF plane accompanied by the union communications minister, Mr. C. H. Stephen, and Mr. Gundu Rao. She was seen off at the airport, among others, by Karnataka governor, Mr. Govind Narain.

CSO: 4220/7465

MINISTRY REPORTS 331 INDIANS IN PAKISTANI JAILS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 81 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, April 2 (UNI): The ministry of external affairs has stated that 331 Indian nationals are believed to be confined in various jails in Pakistan--broadly falling under three categories: civilian detenus, defence personnel, and crew of Indian boats seized in Pakistan.

The third report of the committee on petitions tabled in the Lok Sabha today says that it learns from the ministry that two of the Indian detenus, Mr. Laeeq Ahmed and Mr. Ashok Verma, had been offered for release by Pakistan. The offer, has, however, yet to materialise.

In May 1979, Pakistan had offered to release five Indian security prisoners as against 15 of their security prisoners.

The ministry says, "since this exchange was found inequitable, we did not accept it and asked the Pakistan government to furnish us details of all the Indian security prisoners held by them".

It says 40 defence personnel who took part in the Indo-Pakistani conflict of 1971 have been missing since then and are believed to be held in Pakistan. Pakistan's reply has been that it is not holding such persons in custody.

The Indian government handed over an aide memoire to the Pakistani embassy on March 5 last year urging that government to release Indian detenus at the earliest.

CSO: 4220/7466

REPORTER GIVES BACKGROUND ON KASHMIR DP ISSUE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 81 p 11

[Article by V. K. Dethle]

[Text] Jammu, April 2.

The issue relating to the demand for granting the status of permanent resident to refugees from West Pakistan settled in the state has to be viewed in the context of the political compulsions operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

Unless these compulsions are eliminated or made less emotive, this humanitarian problem will continue to defy solution. Successive state governments have either made feeble efforts to provide relief to these hapless people or sought to sweep the problem under the carpet.

The operation of the political compulsions became evident during the recent assembly debate on the question of amending the constitution to grant full permanent resident status to the refugees. It was neither the ruling National Conference nor its main political rival, the Congress(I),--though the latter did second the relevant motion--which sought the constitutional amendment. This task was left to the lone Congress (U) member, Mr. Bhim Singh, whose party was a negligible influence in the state.

A Muslim opposition member from the valley confined his support to introduction of the bill which, in the event, was defeated at the introduction stage itself because of opposition from the ruling party.

King's Order

The issue is a legacy from the time of Maharaja Hari Singh. Following an agitation by the educated Pandit community over the entry of outsiders into the state services, the king issued a proclamation on April 20, 1927, placing state subjects in various categories. This order, along with another was incorporated in section 6 of the state constitution when it was adopted by the state constituent assembly in 1954.

Maharaja Hari Singh's original order made ownership of land in the state a mandatory provision for being declared a permanent resident in category II or III. Category I residents were those residing in the state since the dynasty was founded.

In Jammu and Kashmir there are two categories of refugees. One consists of persons who were residing in the areas now occupied by Pakistan. They are treated as state subjects and are eligible for jobs, state schooling and other benefits.

The second group comprises refugees from West Pakistan, particularly from the Sialkot area, who streamed into the state and occupied land just across the frontier.

Estimates regarding the number of those who came here originally and the current population varies. Their number at present is generally estimated at 30,000 to 50,000.

Though successive chief ministers have assured the West Pakistani refugees of relief, nothing much has been done in this regard. No effort was made to treat them as permanent residents while the constitution was being formulated by the state constituent assembly. The provision relating to ownership of land was included in the constitution to determine whether or not an individual was a permanent resident. Incidentally, the present chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, was in jail at that time.

Over the decades, it is alleged, Many West Pakistani refugees have secured "permanent resident certificates" through dubious means. [as published]

Another allegation is that the authorities sought to silence some of the more prominent refugees' spokesmen through various favours like the grant of road transport permits.

The return of Sheikh Abdullah to power in 1975 was followed by an increase in the hardship faced by the refugees. One of the first acts of his regime was to revoke the proprietary rights conferred on the refugees in 1971. It also started plugging loopholes in the grant of certificates.

There was an immediate uproar and the refugees started stepping up their agitation. Last year, they observed a dharna at Ranbirsinghpura. The general secretary of the ruling National Conference went to the agitators and assured them that their demand for full civic rights would be considered sympathetically by the government.

A similar assurance was given to the all-party action committee formed in the Jammu region in the wake of the Poonch agitation. However, the government apparently had second thoughts and did nothing to fulfil these assurances.

There is a strong belief in some quarters that the demographic pattern of the state will be affected if outsiders are permitted to settle here. It is feared that the influx of outsiders might increase if an exception is made in the case of the West Pakistani refugees.

The state government is determined to stall, for the moment at least, all attempts at securing permanent resident rights to these refugees. The chief minister's stand is that they are the responsibility of the Centre.

CSO: 4220/7466

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST LEADER WARNS LEFT FRONT

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 5 Apr 81 p 7

[Article by Chandrasekhar Sarkar: "'Left Front Should Not Rely on P.M.'s Assurance'"]

[Text] Kalyani, April 4.--At the open session of the Samyukta Kisan Sabha held here this afternoon, Mr Tridib Chaudhuri, Revolutionary Socialist Party leader, said the Left Front constituents should not rely on Mrs Gandhi's assurance that she would not topple the West Bengal Ministry. Instead, they should prepare for a class struggle, Mr Chaudhuri said he had little doubt that the Congress(I) would try to dislodge the Left Front Ministry in all possible ways--constitutional and un-constitutional.

Since her return to power, Mrs Gandhi and some vested interests had been making desperate attempts to suppress the peasant movement in India under the Leftist leadership.

He warned his listeners that the Rightist force was trying to impose a dictatorship on the country, though the people in that camp were talking loudly about parliamentary democracy.

A large number of farmers from different districts attended the open session on the first day of the three-day State conference of the Samyukta Kisan Sabha, the peasant wing of the RSP. They carried red flags and shouted slogans.

Mr Nani Bhattacharya, who presided, said that though there was a Left Front Ministry in West Bengal, reactionaries and vested interests in the State had been bold enough to oppress the poor farmer since the Congress(I) returned to power at the Centre. It was becoming increasingly difficult to resist their onslaught.

Mrs Urmila Kapoor said that however loud one might shout "land to the tiller" there was no way of implementing the slogan in accordance with the principles of parliamentary democracy. Mr Nikhil Das, MLA, appealed to the Left parties to get rid of sectarianism and face the political challenge unitedly.

CSO: 4220

ANTIRESERVATIONIST CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR MAY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Ahmedabad, April 6 (UNI)--The anti-reservation agitation would be spread throughout the country after an all-India conference of antireservationist students was held in May, according to the convener of the Gujarat Anamat Bethak Virodhi Samiti (anti-reservation committee) of students, Mr Dilip Barot.

The conference was likely to be held in Delhi, he added.

He said that representatives of the Samiti, who had toured different States to muster support for their anti-reservation agitation, had met with "spontaneous response" from student leaders of different States, particularly Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan and Haryana.

Meanwhile, the anti-reservation agitation in Gujarat will be intensified with programmes like "non-cooperation and civil disobedience movement" after the proposed federation of the medicos and other college and school students of the State was formed shortly, Mr Barot added. [as published]

Several thousand panchayat employees in different districts observed a token strike today, demanding, among other things, abolition of caste-based roster system of promotion in Government and panchayat services.

CSO: 4220/7493

NEW JANAWADI PARTY LEADERS TALK TO NEWSMEN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Apr 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The two-day national convention of erstwhile Lok Dal workers, which concluded in the Capital on Monday with the formation of a new political organisation called the Janawadi (Democratic) Party, has elected Mr Chandrajit Yadav, MP, as its chairman.

The convention authorised Mr Yadav and co-founder of the new party, former UP Chief Minister Banarsi Das to "explore the possibilities of creating a national alternative by initiating dialogue with other like-minded parties who have faith in national solidarity, democracy, socialism and secularism."

Speaking to newsmen at the conclusion of the convention, the two leaders disclosed that the participants were very keen to see all secular, democratic and progressive forces united into a single party.

Mr Yadav explained that the Janawadi Party did not want to adopt a big-brotherly attitude towards any party. It had no idea of merging into any other party; it does not want others to merge in it either. "We want like minded parties to come together to form one party with one constitution and one flag," he added.

Asked to identify like-minded parties, Mr Yadav listed them as Congress-U, Democratic Socialist Front and Socialist Party (of Mr Raj Narain), on the national plane, and Peasants and Workers Party at the State level. He said that some of the 40 delegates who had participated in the discussions at the convention had urged for opening talks for the purpose with regional parties like the DMK and AIADMK as well.

Rich Experience

Mr Yadav further elucidated that even with parties of the Left--like the CPI and the CPI-M--with whom the Janawadi Party did not contemplate merger, "we will work together on people's issue." This was important in the light of the successful 26 Mar kisan-agricultural workers rally in the Capital, he felt. "We want to carry forward the kisan rally's rich experience."

Asked about the Janawadi Party's attitude to the Janata, Mr Yadav said he did not rule out any talk with the Janata, but the Janata had refused to join the six-party combination and had dissociated from the 26 March rally.

Mr Das pointed out that at Sarnath, the Janata Party had closed its doors for unity with other parties. "They have excluded any talk of unity, they are only wanting individuals to join them," he said.

The whole exercise was intended to build a strong Opposition in the country, which was a "national necessity," Mr Yadav remarked. He made it clear that the Cong-I and the BJP were automatically excluded from its purview.

"If we, however, fail to bring together like-minded parties, then we will concentrate on both building our own organisation and organising joint campaigns on burning problems--the second best alternative under the circumstances," Mr Yadav said.

The landless labourers in the villages members of the backward sections, minorities, peasants and youth would form the core of the Janawadi Party, he informed.

The convention, which was attended by 5,500 delegates besides workers and visitors, adopted the main political and economic resolution calling for revamping of the Sixth Five-Year Plan so as to give priority to improvement of standard of life of people living below poverty-line.

The resolution also called for constitutional guarantee for employment failing which unemployment allowance should be paid to the jobless, national public distribution system; parity between prices of agricultural and industrial products; one bank for every 10,000 population for mobilisation of savings and extension of credit to hitherto deprived sections; facilities for production to craftsmen, artisans and small-scale industries on priority basis; priority plans for linking all villages with roads, provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities and housing in the rural and urban areas.

CSO: 4220/7493

CONGRESS(I) LOSES SEAT IN 5 APR BYELECTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Apr 81 p 1

[Text]

HYDERABAD, April 6

In an impressive victory, the Janata party wrested the Chirala seat from the ruling Congress (I) which, however, retained the Brahmapuram and Palar seats, in yesterday's three by-elections to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

At Chirala (Prakasam District) the Janata candidate, Mr S Chandrababu, defeated the Congress (I) nominee by a margin of 18,575 votes in a quadrangular contest.

At Brahmapuram (SC) in Rangareddi District, the Congress (I) candidate Mr A. G. Krishna, defeated his nearest rival, Mr A. R. Devraj of (CP) by a margin of 7,771 votes, in a four-cornered fight.

The Congress (I) candidate, Mr Chandrababu Sankar, won at Palar (SC), Khammam District, by defeating his nearest rival Mr B. Harimurthy (CP) by a margin of 4,188 votes. There were six candidates for the seat.

The Chief Minister, Mr T. Arjun, said the by-election result from Chirala was not a surprise to him because he knew of party squabbles earlier.

The only fight on poles took place with the CPI and CP(M) at Brahmapuram and Palar constituencies while

there was a faction fight at Chirala.

The President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress (I) Committee, Mr M. A. Aziz, has instituted an enquiry into the alleged sabotage by partyman in the Chirala by-election.

A jubilant Opposition in the State, astonished at the margin of victory at Chirala, viewed the result as a reversal of the trend set in earlier general elections in favour of Congress (I).

The Congress-I leaders were generally inclined to attribute the defeat to factional quarrels within the party in the area. Though Chirala was held by the Congress since 1982, it won the seat in 1978 and 1980 by narrow margins of 800 and 1,440 votes.

Commenting on the result, Mr P. Sundarayya, leader of CP(M), said people were getting enlightened.

Mr S. Jagan Reddy, leader of Janata in the Assembly, said the Chirala result exposed the myth of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's invincibility in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr M. Venkiah Naidu, leader of the BJP in the Assembly, said the results were an eye-opener to the Congress-I and that they should be an eye-opener to the Opposition parties also.

CSO: 4220/7492

GANDHI REPORTEDLY APPROVES ANTI-MARXIST MOVEMENTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, April 4. The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, is understood to have given clearance to the two Congress parties and other like-minded parties to launch joint movements against Marxists and their allies in both West Bengal and Kerala.

Two ruling party MPs from West Bengal, Mr Anand Gopal Mukhopadhyaya and Mr Ashok Kumar Sen, apprised Mrs Gandhi of developments taking place after talks with representatives of their parties. They claimed she had given her approval for launching joint movements.

The two MPs had discussions with Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, Congress(U) leader from West Bengal, and Mr K. P. Unnikrishna, who hails from Kerala.

Both the parties are agitated over the police firing on Congress(I) workers in Calcutta on March 30 in which three persons were killed.

They are also concerned over the politicalisation of the educational system in West Bengal symbolised by the withdrawal of Rabindranath Tagore's book for school children, "Easy Reader."

Only recently, Mrs Gandhi, while addressing lawyer MPs from her party, had launched a frontal attack in the relevance of Marxist ideology in a parliamentary democracy.

UNI adds: Mr Mukhopadhaya said the home minister, Mr Zail Singh, was also being apprised of developments.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI REPORTEDLY ENDORSES MOVE AGAINST FRONT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, April 2.--Mrs Gandhi has reportedly endorsed her party's strategy to associate "like-minded" parties and groups, the intelligentsia and those who do not approve of the CPI(M)'s policies in a movement the Congress (I) is planning in West Bengal to wrest power from the Left Front. She endorsed this at a meeting with Mr Ashok Sen and Mr Ananda Gopal Mukherjee, both Congress (I) MPs, here tonight.

Mr Sen and Mr Mukherjee told her that the Congress (I) in West Bengal had obtained the support of Janata, Congress (U) and some leaders like Mr P. C. Sen and Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi. Mr Sen and Mr Das Munshi had issued statements approving of a joint stand against the Marxists.

It is understood that the Prime Minister favoured this approach. The two West Bengal leaders pointed out to her that the CPI (M), Forward Bloc and the RSP made a group. The rest of constituents in the Left Front were opposed to the Marxists.

Mr Sen and other leaders have had discussions with the Socialist Unity Centre. Though SUC was not with the Congress (I), it was nevertheless, against the CPI(M). Other groups in the Left Front had expressed their disapproval of many of the State Government's actions.

The West Bengal Congress (I) leaders gave Mrs Gandhi an account of the party rally organized in Calcutta on March 30, and told her that this had helped bring the leaders close to the rank and file. The other important features of the rally was [as published] that the majority of the people who had participated in it were industrial workers, villagers and tribals.

Mr Sen and Mr Mukherjee described the police firing on March 30, and expressed the view that the State Government seemed to have had taken to a deliberate policy of tackling such rallies in a "brutal and wanton" manner.

Mrs Gandhi reportedly asked them if it was a policy of "shoot to kill". It was so, felt the West Bengal leaders.

Mr Ashok Sen will be in Calcutta tomorrow.

CSO: 4220/7468

DEATHS REPORTED IN CONGRESS(I) CALCUTTA BANDH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Apr 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Calcutta, April 3.

Eight people including an eight-year-old boy and a constable, were killed in widespread sporadic violence in different parts of West Bengal today during the 12-hour bandh throughout the state.

The bandh was called in protest against the left front government's "misrule" and the death of three in police firing during the Congress(I) demonstration here on Monday. Normal life in the panic-stricken city remained paralysed throughout.

Mr. Ajit Panja, president of the PCC(I) which had given the bandh call, said in the evening that "the complete" bandh was "a clear vote of no-confidence against the left front government" which should immediately resign.

He congratulated the people on their response and the rank and file of the party on their display of patience and firm faith in non-violence, despite CPM provocations, arrests and killings.

The Congress (U), the Janata and the AICP were among others who supported the bandh. The CPI opposed it alongside the left front.

According to the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, what happened during the bandh was "complete defeat for the Congress (I). I do not know how they (Congress-I) will characterise it themselves." But had they had any influence, their dependence on violence to such a level would not be necessary. Nor would they have "prepared so many bombs to terrorise people. They (Congress-I) had no faith in people, nor the people had any in them."

When a newsmen asked what happened to the front's plan for facing up to the situation politically, the chief minister said it was because of this that so many public transport operators could perform such "a heroic job" in keeping up the services in the face of attacks. "We had to face gangsters and it was not easy to do that against bombs."

The government ordered its transport fleet back to the garage after 6.30 this evening, half an hour after the end of the bandh: "It will be more difficult to

operate against probable attacks in the dark". Mr. Basu also ordered the police not to allow any procession after dusk.

A boy in Calcutta, a jute mill worker at Sankrail in Howrah, and a constable at Borjora in Bankura died of bomb injuries. Another died in a Congress (I)-CPM clash at Ketugram in Burdwan.

A CPM peasant front leader was allegedly murdered, after having been kidnapped at Contai, Midnapore.

The police fired at least half a dozen times, mostly in the districts, resulting in one death at Bagnan, Howrah. Twenty-two bomb injury cases were admitted to city hospitals till evening and 67 others were treated and discharged.

Over 110 state buses were seriously damaged in bomb and stone attacks; over 20 trams were similarly damaged, including one on which arson was attempted.

People in many parts of Calcutta, especially those living near tram and state bus termini and garages, woke up this morning to loud and incessant blasts of bombs. Public transport vehicles were subjected to sporadic bomb and stone attacks at even unexpected but key traffic points, which may not have been chosen at random.

Dozens of state buses lay immobilised throughout the city with their shutters shattered. Many operators were wounded. Private cars were also not spared in the early hours.

Rival squads went around different areas shouting slogans for and against the bandh. But neither these nor the conspicuous police pickets could thwart the hit-and-run tactics of attackers.

Outside an engineering factory gate in Dum Dum, people with drawn choppers and daggers were found intimidating workers intending to go for work. It looked as if parts of central and north Calcutta had been completely under the control of hoodlums.

The chief minister alleged that many of the Congress (I) squads included men who lobbed bombs into passing vehicles, and the police, as a matter of principle, felt hesitant to take action against a procession. There had been half a dozen other reports of police inactivity or callousness. This necessitated repeated prodding. He had to talk to one thana officer himself, which he should not normally do, to be more vigilant about a persistent trouble spot in south Calcutta.

Shops and bazars were mostly closed. Some main thoroughfares were strewn with stones and glass splinters which scared even vehicles moving with "press" stickers. So great was the panic that most people chose to stay indoors or in their respective localities. Even yong [as published] soccer enthusiasts, usually making full use of empty roads, were missing.

The jute industry reported "very depleted to moderate" attendance in the Barrackpore and Serampore belts, while Budge Budge mills ran with near normal complement. Some units had their weekly day off today.

In the city's Hyde Road area, engineering units had 25 per cent to 70 per cent attendance. But the big mercantile firms and banks, including the Reserve Bank, and Central and state-government offices had very poor attendance, though in all these sections the CPM and the CPI are supposed to be strong. Employees might have chosen discretion rather than respond to the call for confrontation of the bandh call.

However, after 11 a.m., people seemed to have recovered their confidence a bit and came out to catch buses, which had been almost empty in the morning hours, and left for their offices. As a result, the Dalhousie Square area looked less deserted than during previous bandhs, the last having taken place on November 27 on a call given by the ruling left front against Central policies.

The chief minister, briefing newsmen, alleged that a section of railway authorities had abetted the bandh and some of their actions and non-actions "need an inquiry."

They (railways) did not even care to tell the government, despite an assurance for help given yesterday, when squatting of tracks or other deliberate obstructions took place, Mr. Basu said. Instances had come to the government's notice that even cases of clear sabotage, like putting a wet rag on overhead traction line, damage to fishplates or motormen allegedly going away with the keys were not brought to the government's notice in time.

The chief minister thought that the railways' announcement yesterday evening about the cancellation or short termination of long-distance trains, which they had refused to do during the November 27 bandh, and about the possibility of suspension of suburban services "encouraged" the squatting on the tracks and bomb throwing. "In this they have succeeded".

His contention was that but for the suspension of suburban services, with prior notice, attendance in offices and other establishments would have been much higher. In fact, he quoted reports to say that commuters had collected at many stations and clamoured for trains to reach Calcutta.

Mr. Basu (as published) was also extremely critical of AIR and TV projection of news about the bandh.

He said a CPM legislator, Mr. Dhiren Sen, and four others were wounded in a bomb attack in Saithia in Birbhum district and admitted to hospital.

UNI adds:

Mr. Mohammad Ansari, stated to be a Congress (I) leader, was killed and 11 were injured in a bomb attack at Andul in Howrah district, according to Mr. Ajit Panja.

Mr. Panja said Congress (I) supporters had taken out a procession after the workers of the National Jute Mills at Andul abstained from their duty. The procession was attacked by anti-bandh people. The man died on the spot.

Indian Airlines today operated its flights to and from Calcutta as per schedule, according to an IA source. The staff attendance was near-normal, the source said.

The CPM local Krishak Sabha secretary, Sheikh Khilafat, was killed in a clash at Bothari in the Contai police station area in Midnapore district.

CSO: 4220/7472

BOMB KILLS DISTRICT COMMISSIONER IN ASSAM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Apr 81 p 1

[Text]

SHILLONG, April 6.

THE terrorists in Assam today struck a deadly blow by claiming the life of the divisional commissioner of Upper Assam, Mr. E. S. Parthasarathy, at Jorhat and blowing up the Gauhati-Siliguri pipeline of the Indian Oil Corporation under the Bhumarkur railway bridge near Batua village, two km. from Serupetta, in Barpeta sub-division of Kamrup district, this morning.

In the worst-ever bomb tragedy in the troubled state, the commissioner was fatally injured when a bomb planted under his chair exploded immediately after he sat on it at 10.15 a.m. The chair was blown to smithereens and windows of the room shattered.

The seriously injured official was rushed to Jorhat hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Mr. Parthasarathy (43), who belonged to the 1961 batch of IAS officers, is survived by his widow, a son, a daughter and aged parents. Incidentally, he was the only son of his parents. His body is being flown by a special IAF plane to Madras, his home town, where the cremation will take place tomorrow.

SEVERAL ARRESTS

Earlier, another bomb exploded on a section of the Gauhati-Siliguri product pipeline around 2 a.m.

The Assam home minister, Mr. R. C. Saharia, accompanied by the chief secretary, Mr. Ramesh Chandra, and the finance secretary, Mr. M. C. Narasimham, airdashed to Jorhat immediately on receipt of information about Mr. Parthasarathy's death.

Explosives experts also rushed to the scene and started investigation.

The Jorhat police have taken into custody about a dozen persons, includ-

ing some government employees, for interrogation in connection with the blast.

In a condolence message to Mrs. Parthasarathy, the governor of the north-eastern states, Mr. L. P. Singh, described the bomb attack as a "most cowardly act and heinous offence."

He said that in the death of Mr. Parthasarathy, the state government had suffered a grievous and irreparable loss.

The Assam chief minister, Mrs. Anura Taimur, who is now in New Delhi, also sent a condolence message to Mrs. Parthasarathy and announced an *ex gratia* grant of Rs. 50,000 to the bereaved family.

PUMPING SUSPENDED

An IOC spokesman at Gauhati said the pumping of petroleum products to Siliguri was suspended immediately after the explosion. Senior military and police officers had rushed to the blast site to make an on-the-spot investigation.

This is the second bomb blast along the pipeline in less than two months. The first explosion, which blew up a 10-inch-diameter Oil India pipeline at Penuai in Nowgong district, 135 km. from Gauhati, took place on February 13.

The death of Mr. Parthasarathy, considered by the police as the firm in a like series of selective killings, created a stir in the secretariat complex at Dispur. Security arrangements have been tightened to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

The authorities at Dispur and Shillong have also alerted the Nagaland government and scolded them on the need for foolproof security arrangements at Dimapur where the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is scheduled to address the north-eastern regional convention of the Congress (I) on April 11.

The governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, said the recent spurt in bomb explosions in Assam was a cause for grave concern. He was of the view that some people connected with the Assam agitation were involved in these acts of sabotage and terrorism.

The authorities at Dispur have also viewed with concern the sudden spurt in the incidence of bomb blasts since the Congress (I) government headed by Mrs. Taimur assumed office on December 6 last.

It is pointed out that compared to a total of 34 explosions which resulted in the deaths of two persons and injuries to 27 others in 1980, 50 blasts claiming the lives of eight persons and causing injuries to 31 others have been reported since January 1 this year.

The authorities have taken note of the timing of the series of six bomb blasts along the railway tracks on April 1 as well as the killing of Mr. Parthasarathy and the explosion on the oil pipeline this morning.

The blasts along the railway track, resulting in the derailment of two trains, in death of one person and injuries to 14 others, came in the wake of the governor's action in proroguing the budget session of the assembly after the deputy speaker had adjourned the house 'sine die' without passing the appropriation bill, the finance bill and the vote of thanks to the governor for his address.

The explosion resulting in the death of Mr. Parthasarathy came within hours of a government announcement dismissing the Assam DIG, Mr. H. K. Bhattacharya, now under detention under the National Security Act on charges of alleged links with the outlawed PREPAK in Manipur and of guiding the Assam agitation on the foreign national issue and inciting the agitators to indulge in violence.

WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS CONGRESS(I) VIOLENCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Apr 81 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Calcutta, April 6.

After a turbulent session during which not even ten per cent of the spoken words were audible, the West Bengal assembly today passed after a division a resolution condemning "the introduction of violence in this state by the Congress (I)." Half a dozen Congress (I) members failed to obstruct its passage, though they, along with the Janata members, succeeded in forcing an abrupt adjournment for half an hour.

The resolution moved by the chief whip, Mr. Ashok Bose, and two others, drew the attention of the people "throughout the country" to the "deep conspiracy" which had been hatched to disturb peace and amity in West Bengal and struck a note of warning to the Congress (I) and its leaders.

They were told that the people of the state would not tolerate this endeavour "with the help of anti-socials". The resolution ended with the hope that the people would safeguard democracy at any price and by organising united resistance against "anti-social and terroristic behaviour."

The resolution also pointed out that this policy of violence had already cost many lives, including those of women and children. "This house conveys its sincere sympathy for the March 30 victims of Congress (I) anti-socials. It congratulated the working people, especially transport workers, on "standing up against this attack." It condemned the attack on a member of the house, Mr. Dharendra Nath Sen (CPM) and hoped for his speedy recovery.

CSO: 4220/7488

ASSAM REPORTED TO BEGIN NORMALIZATION PROCESS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Apr 81 p 8

[Article by K. C. Khanna]

[Text]

ASSAM is by no means at peace with itself or the Centre as yet. But the process of normalization in the state has begun and, barring some folly on the part of the authorities in Gauhati or New Delhi, it cannot be reversed. In retrospect, it would seem that the induction of a popular ministry on December 6 was well-timed even though the ruling party is in a minority in the state legislature, all but eight of its 50 members are defectors, and the chief minister, Mrs. Taimur, is rather raw in the game.

For all these handicaps, it is to Mrs. Taimur's credit that she and her advisers have created salutary conditions for conducting high school examinations. Nearly 1.15 lakh students in the tenth class have already taken their tests and another 38,000 are at the moment appearing for post-university and M A examinations. Having already wasted one academic year, few students — or their parents — want to sacrifice another.

Equally to the point, business and industry, which had suffered enormously during the year of President's rule due to frequent bandhs, strikes and disruption of transport, have revived. Assam's timber, plywood, jute, forest products and oil are flowing without interruption to the rest of the country and imports into the state of various essential commodities, including cement and steel, have gone up. Nearly a thousand loaded wagons, which were blocking the arteries of rail traffic near Gauhati for many months owing to the agitation, have been despatched to their destination and thus a major bottleneck impeding the movement of goods has been removed.

During her talks with the Central leaders in New Delhi over the weekend, Mrs. Taimur has been at pains to emphasise that

she is receiving "full co-operation" from the people and the government employees. She may well be right. Civil servants, mostly Assamese Hindus, had backed the students' agitation over the foreigners issue to the hilt right from the start but by the end of last year their enthusiasm for participating in the movement was evidently wearing thin.

POSITIVE

All-Assam Students' Union and All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, for instance, had issued a call for a day's *bandh* on December 7, the day after the Taimur ministry was sworn in. But more than 1,700 of 2,100 employees at the state headquarters at D'vor ignored the pickets to attend office; the administration was able to maintain *sholeen bus* services in Gauhati and, for the first time, the North-East Frontier Railway ran almost all the trains during a *bandh*. AASU and AACSP have discreetly refrained from organising frequent demonstrations for the last three months.

Paradoxically, in the peculiar context of what has been happening in the state in the recent past, the *bandhs*, in-fighting within the Congress (I) legislature party and the stout opposition it faces from without is also a positive sign. At the very least, it betokens a return to the familiar. Tom bureaucrats in Gauhati have no longer to contend directly with fearless young men who could bring the administration virtually to a standstill at will. After a lapse of nearly 15 months, political parties are again at the centre of the stage and the ways and purposes of the new leaders, though not always above board, are easier to grapple with.

In any case, Mrs. Taimur's government is impatient to give an impetus to development if only because it is keen to make a good impression. By and large, it gives clear directions and is willing to shoulder the responsibility for its decisions instead of passing the buck or using the proverbial inertia of the civil services as an alibi for its own infirmities.

The very survival of the Taimur ministry will, however, depend in the near future on the fate of the 6-party move to challenge its right to rule in the courts and, beyond that, on the attitude of the CPM and the CPI which hold the balance of power in the state legislature. Since the outcome in either case is unpredictable, the Centre is preparing for the worst. Mrs. Taimur will also have to look sharp to prevent dissidence within her own party from crystallising into an open revolt; in fact, her attempt is to augment her party's strength by winning over as many of the eleven "independent" MLAs in the state assembly as possible to her side. Apparently, she is also trying to persuade a couple of MLAs belonging to the 27-member Janata legislature party to cross over.

STRONG

Legally, the case for the continuance of the ministry is, in a way, pretty strong. It had defeated the no-confidence motion in the budget session of the state legislature with a comfortable margin. The house also passed the vote-on-account and a number of supplementary demands. And it gave leave for the introduction of the Appropriation Bill to cover the vote-on-account. When the government found that it

could not defeat the two opposition cut motions for the reduction by Rs. 100 of its supplementary demand of Rs. 50,000 for the expenditure incurred on the implementation of the National Security Act during 1980-81. It decided to withdraw the entire demand.

Since the speaker ruled that it could not do so unless the cut motions were first disposed of, the ruling party decided to vote for the cut motions and table a modified Appropriation Bill for the vote of the house. On behalf of the government, the home minister, Mr. Ramesh Chandra Saharia, explained that "we have to dovetail our decision to withdraw the demand for Rs. 50,000 with the procedural requirements of the moment".

The fate of the government would have been settled one way or the other if the speaker (who before his election to the post belonged to the Janata Party) had applied the guillotine and sought a vote on the Appropriation Bill. But in view of the prevailing pandemonium, he adjourned the assembly for ten minutes. At the end of the short interval, the deputy speaker (who was a member of the CPI) took the chair and chose to adjourn the house one day even though the house had nearly three hours (before the midnight of March 31) to pronounce its verdict on the

Appropriation Bill and thus avoid a constitutional impasse.

Against this background, the court may well take the view that the governor had no option but to prorogue the assembly and promulgate the bill by an ordinance. The only weakness in the government's case is that it had already incurred the expenditure on the National Security Act and withdrawal of the demand on its part can be interpreted as connivance at a financial irregularity just to stay in power. But then the amount involved is small and such matters are usually taken care of by the Public Accounts Committee.

DANGER

In any case, the most that a court of law can do now is to order that the assembly be reconvened to consider the Appropriations Bill anew. It is idle to speculate at this stage as to what would happen in such an eventuality but the factors that have persuaded the CPM and CPI in the last session to keep the Talmur government going by abstaining in the vote on every critical issue will persist. The strength of both these parties in Assam is largely based on the support of the Muslims and Bengali-speaking Hindus. These communities feel protected and a lot

more confident now that political parties are back in business and the Talmur ministry is in the saddle. Earlier fears that developments in West Bengal may leave the left parties in Assam with no choice but to vote against the latter have receded since the Centre evidently has no intention of dismissing Mr. Jyoti Basu's government in Calcutta in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, behind-the-scenes talks between the leaders of the dormant agitation in Assam on the foreigners issue and the Congress (I) high command's "secret" emissaries seem to be making some progress. Though many of the influential office-bearers of All-Assam Students' Union favour a compromise, they are still not in a position to overturn the hardline in All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and in their own ranks. A settlement with the acceptance of 1967 as the "cut-off year" for the detection of foreigners and deletion of their names from the electoral registers may, therefore, take time.

But the bomb attacks being perpetrated by extremists in Assam Jatiyabadi Dal, the RSS and Naxalites are ironically helping to crystallise opinion in AASU in favour of an early settlement. Whatever its views, AASU's leadership is genuinely committed to non-violence and anxious to ward off the danger of anarchy.

URS HOLDS GANDHI TO BLAME FOR CALCUTTA DISTURBANCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] Mangalore, April 6.

The Congress (U) president, Mr. Devaraj Urs, criticised Mrs. Indira Gandhi for decrying violence and agitations in the country but not stopping her own partymen from agitating and indulging in violence.

Inaugurating the Malenad regional conference of the Karantaka Pradesh Youth Congress (U) here today, he said that according to published reports, the toll in Calcutta was as high as 18, while the number of buses burnt was 15 during the Congress (I) sponsored bandh.

/Mr. Urs came down heavily on persons inside his own party who felt inclined towards launching joint action with the Congress (I) against the democratically-elected government of West Bengal. It would be better if, these persons joined Mrs. Gandhi's bandwagon, he added./ [in boldface]

He said he was against violent agitations against the policies of any government. Mr. Urs was obviously referring to Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munshi's views expressing support for joing action with the Congress (I) and like-minded parties against the CPM-led united front government.

Mr. Urs said any national alternative to the Congress (I) must not depend only on numbers but on ideas, plans and programmes, based on hard work and sacrifice for promoting the well-being of the masses and for establishing a peaceful and prosperous society. The Congress (U) was directing all its attention towards this goal.

He pointed out that the government alone could not solve problems like unemployment. He called upon the youth to draw up plans and programmes of action aimed at finding solutions to the problems facing the country.

He said the education system had not been changed even though successive governments and several high-ranking politicians had cried themselves hoarse pointing out that it was suited only for producing clerks.

Mr. Urs declared that his party would press for an anti-detection bill in Parliament.

Mr. T. A. Pai, a former Union industries minister, addressing the conference said the youth should come forward to create a new leadership which believed in the well-being of the masses, hard work and sacrifice.

He said illiteracy had increased by leaps and bounds and it was the duty of every educated person to eradicate it. He said illiteracy and poverty were being exploited for political gains.

CSO: 4220/7488

ASSAM DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL DISMISSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] Gauhati, April 6 (PTI): Mr. Hiranya Kumar Bhattacharjee, deputy inspector-general of police, Assam, has been dismissed from service on the charge of helping and guiding the extremist elements connected with the Assam agitation on the foreign nationals issue and trying to create disloyalty in the police force.

Official sources said here today that the disciplinary action against Mr. Bhattacharjee was taken under article 61(1) (C) of the constitution (under which no inquiry was necessary to substantiate the charge against him).

Mr. Bhattacharjee, after his arrest here under the NSA in January last, was lodged in the Bazaribagh jail. The government also accused Mr. Bhattacharjee of having link with the outlawed pre-Pak elements of Manipur and to directing the All-Assam Students' Union to send volunteers for training in the PRE-PAK organisation.

Mr. Bhattacharjee filed a petition in the Gauhati high court last month challenging his detention under the NSA and denied all the charges brought against him. The case is pending in the high court.

CSO: 4220/7488

ARMY COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE OPENS IN DELHI

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Apr 81 . 1

[Text] New Delhi, April 2.

The Army Commanders commenced their six-day bi-annual conference at the Army Headquarters today under the chairmanship of the Chief of the Army Staff, Gen. O. P. Malhotra.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's address to the Commanders was the highlight of the opening days's [as published] deliberations.

The Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Shivraj Patil, the Defence Secretary, Mr. K. P. A. Menon, the Defence Production Secretary, Mr. B. A. Malik and Scientific Adviser, Dr. Reja Ramanna, attended the conference.

Air Chief Marshal I. H. Latif today called upon all base Commanders to maintain the highest state of operational readiness in the face of likely implications of induction of sophisticated air-weaponry in the neighbourhood of the country.

The Air Chief, who was inaugurating the annual conference of the fighting formation Commanders at the headquarters of the Western Air Command here, surveyed the present geopolitical situation in the Indian sub-continent.

In an obvious reference to the supply of sophisticated weapons system including modern fighters by the Reagan administration to Pakistan, the Air Chief said any complacency in guarding the country's air space was unacceptable.

He thanked the Government for its efforts in further modernising the Air Force which, he said, were in keeping with the new challenges.

The conference is being held under the chairmanship of Air Marshal L. M. Katre, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command.--UNI, PTI.

CSO: 4220/7470

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Apr 81 p 16

[Text] The next Army Chief Lt. Gen. K. V. Krishna Rao, who will be assuming charge on June 1 at a difficult moment in the sub-continental situation, has lived up to the Napoleonic dictum that a successful general must be both able and lucky.

In his 39 years in the Army, from the days he was commissioned as a young subaltern in 1942 to his present elevation to the top post, he has been consistently lucky which helped him to combine ability with determination in battle even in the most adverse conditions.

He fills perfectly the prototype of a proficient post-independence soldier free from the swagger of the British days when Indian officers remained insulated from national life. Warm and affable, he is a no-nonsenser who insists on perfection on the part of his officers and men, both in their demeanour and devotion to duty, operational skills and the will to win. He is known for his meticulous care for detail in planning and conduct of operations.

These qualities of Gen. Krishna Rao, backed by his varied professional experience, are going to be put to a severe test during the next two or three years, with the mounting danger of a rearmed and volatile Pakistan indulging in some sort of military adventurism again.

After the exit of the last British Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Sir Roy Bucher, an year and a half after independence, there have been 11 Indian chiefs and Gen. Krishna Rao will be the twelfth.

The first Indian Army Chief was Gen. Cariappa, who made a valuable contribution to the smooth change-over to complete Indianisation. Then followed Generals Rajendrasinhji, Srinagesh, Thimayya, Thapar Chaudhury, Kumaramangalam, Manekshaw, Bewoor, Raina and Malhotra, who will be completing his tenure soon.

Five of these 12 Army Chiefs have come from the South--Generals Cariappa and Thimayya from Coorg, Kumaramangalam from Tamil Nadu and Srinagesh and now Krishna Rao from Andhra Pradesh.

The first four who were King's Commissioned Indian Officers trained at Sandhurst, had to go through a rigorous screening test. The Viceroy used to interview the

selected candidates to satisfy himself about their political background and social aptitude before they left for Britain, something that was not done in the case of the Indian Civil Service.

The last in this series of KCIOs was Gen. J. N. Chaudhury and those who came thereafter were trained at the Indian Military Academy in Dehra Dun. Gen. Krishna Rao, is a true post-independence product because he has had a relatively longer exposure to the new atmosphere after complete Indianisation.

At the tender age of 19, he was commissioned to the Mahar Regiment in 1942 where the senior officers were still British and demanding in expecting much higher standards of professional efficiency from their young Indian colleagues.

Krishna Rao did some remarkable work in guarding refugee camps, protecting both Hindus and Muslims and arranging repatriation across the Punjab borders during the communal holocaust that followed partition. The Indian and Pakistani Commanders, Generals K. S. Thimayya and Ayub Khan who were only brigadiers at that time jointly commended his role in this humanitarian operation.

His regiment moved over to Jammu and Kashmir where it did equally remarkable work on the battlefield by recapturing Bimber Gali and Mendhar and relieving Poonch where thousands of trapped Indian citizens were faced with the grim fate of mass slaughter by plain-clothed Pakistani troops and marauding Pathan tribesmen.

After the Chinese attack, he was posted to Ladakh to command an infantry brigade before he was promoted Major-General and made GOC of a mountain division in the North-East region. This division fought gallantly during the Bangladesh war.

A graduate of the Imperial Defence College in London, Gen. Krishna Rao served as an instructor at the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington and later as Director of Military Operations at the Army Headquarters in Delhi before he commanded an army corps in Jammu and Kashmir and later became Deputy Chief of the Army Staff.

He also headed the committee entrusted with Army reorganisation. He was closely associated with the cadre review to improve promotion prospects in the Army.

By the time he was senior enough to be appointed GOC-in-C of the Western Command, the line was clear for him to reach the top in his own right after Gen. Malhotra's retirement.

CSO: 4220/7477

ANALYST SAYS CABINET SHUFFLE IMPENDING

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Apr 81 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] There has been lately a noticeable change for the better in Mrs Indira Gandhi's style of functioning both as leader of the ruling party and head of the Government. The old spark in her is still missing, but she is much more assertive now and less tolerant of incompetence. She is impatient for quicker results to get over the hump before the public mood starts souring again.

The critics who assailed her faltering leadership last year are conceding now that she has regained some of the lost momentum. She is all set to crack the whip to make her party behave better and also discipline the Opposition. But the criterion for acceptability is still unquestioning loyalty, not just commitment to the chosen cause. There is no place in her dispensation for anybody who dares to disagree, let alone controvert the validity of her actions.

As one of the most unusual personalities in recent history, Mrs. Gandhi has had a tumultuous political career which no script writer could have conjured before she started striding the Indian scene. There is no one now, whether in her own party or in the Opposition, who can challenge even remotely her supremacy, let alone be reckoned as a potential rival capable of replacing her in the foreseeable future.

The feeling of indispensability makes her task of governing this complex country all the more difficult, because it tends to create an illusion of infallibility which led to disastrous consequences in the past. It is relatively easy to out-manceuvre one's political opponents, but hard to capture the mood of the people in moments of crisis riven by a recession of spirit.

Team Spirit

An essential link between a leader and followers is trust. A successful leader has to keep up a proper balance between charisma and pragmatism to ensure better team spirit. One has to be benign and big hearted, kindly and forgiving in dealing with lesser men, while being stern and demanding, even ruthless and hard-headed in punishing the big operators feathering their nests.

It is equally necessary to differentiate between free-wheeling mavericks and promoters of groupism in curbing party indiscipline. A leader cannot afford to

waver for too long in attempting to take a step in a manner and at a moment of one's own choice even if it be for avoiding a wholly erroneous impression of acting under pressure.

When Mrs. Gandhi decided to drop Mr. V. C. Shukla from her Cabinet, the rank and file of the ruling party did not view this action in its limited context, because they tended to look upon it as the starting point for a bigger shakeup to get rid of many more Ministers who had not come up to her expectations.

What was even more astonishing was the whispering campaign that followed Shukla's exit, as though she was bent on purging the party of Sanjay's hatchet men who had made a profession of their personal loyalty to him. It did not make her nervous colleagues long to realise that she had no such Machiavellian designs, although she was no longer pampering the Sanjay men as a privileged lot whether in the party or the Government.

Special Power Base

The Sanjay men represented a special power base within the party and the Government. They were closely identified with the succession politics and tried to have their way in all matters, either by invoking his authority or seeking his intervention. After his tragic death, they felt politically orphaned for some time, but tried to sustain their influence by propagating a switch-over to a presidential form of government.

A few of them became highly controversial with the result that Mrs. Gandhi decided to clip their wings and admonish them privately for identifying themselves rather too closely with business interests. She did not drop any of them from the Government, although quite a few were eased out of party posts.

The decision to jettison Mr. Shukla, like the earlier censure of Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi which led to his resignation, was intended to be an unmistakable warning to those transgressing tolerable limits of dissent and encouraging groupism in their home States, not as a portentous signal that many more heads were going to roll soon.

The paucity of talent in the ruling party had left her with little scope in choosing her colleagues, but she had given undue weightage to some groups which had become a liability in running the Government. It amounted to placing a premium on inefficiency on purely extraneous considerations, saddling herself with a team that had fallen far short of her expectations.

Third Dimension

There are two categories of Ministers who have fallen from her grace for all practical purposes. The first one consists of those who have proved to be totally incapable of running the vast Ministries entrusted to them. The other one which includes some abler Ministers has earned Mrs. Gandhi's displeasure by over-playing the loyalty game to the point of becoming a major embarrassment to her. The few that have displayed some administrative drive and impressed her with their ability or integrity provide a third dimension to this heterogeneous team that has no central core to it.

One great mistake Mrs. Gandhi has made is to concentrate too much power in her hands to the extent of functioning simultaneously as Prime Minister of the country and /de facto/ [in italics] Chief Minister of all Congress(I)-run States. This has led to an excessive preoccupation with party politics to the detriment of her day-to-day conduct of the Government.

The logic of the power game is bringing her closer to a confrontation with the non-Congress(I) State Governments. The attempt to displace them will involve the ruling party in a series of unconstitutional acts, creating the same sort of situation which encouraged the Opposition parties in 1974-75 to take to the streets to topple the Congress Governments. It is distracting the attentions of the Centre from the more fundamental tasks of governance.

Incongruous Situation

A peculiar feature of the present-day politics is that Mrs. Gandhi's popularity with the masses remains untarnished, while the prestige of her Government has suffered considerably in the wake of its poor performance. The badly divided Opposition parties have not been able to take advantage of this incongruous situation by projecting themselves as a credible alternative capable of living down their past.

The absence of a proper party system has led to cross-purpose with those who have failed at the polls taking to agitations to prevent the duly elected parties from functioning for their full term. The galore of defections and the politics of dissidence have made it impossible for any State Government to run the administration untrammelled by fears of a gang up any time to topple it.

The Centre alone stands both as a symbol and citadel of stability and authority. But its increasing involvement in the power politics in the States has brought a bad name to it. The Prime Minister has also spoken of the evils of growing corruption which has been corroding the political system. The misuse of money power to influence politics and determine the outcome of elections has become a crying shame. It would not be possible to establish better standards in politics, unless the ruling party and the Opposition are prepared to evolve and adhere to certain basic ground rules.

The Prime Minister tried to explain away the non-performance of her Government during the first year by blaming the Janata for the bad legacies left over by it. But there is no such alibi during the second year for not giving a better account of itself with the necessary zeal and dedication.

As one who is quite sensitive to the changing moods of the people, Mrs. Gandhi knows quite well that if her Government does not fare well this year, the prevailing discontent in the country will start taking deeper roots by the time she is half way through her present term. It will be too late then to dispel the disillusionment and revive public confidence in her Government.

Any developing country, and more so India with the second largest population in the world and beset with baffling problems, can never be comfortable with pessimism. An atmosphere of disenchantment breeds gloom sapping the faith of the people in the very relevance of their political institutions and system of government.

It is, therefore, doubly necessary for Mrs. Gandhi to uplift the spirits of the people and infuse greater confidence in them with a series of steps designed to improve the quality of government and tone up its performance.

The very logic of the situation will compel her, whichever way one looks at the present situation, to go in for a fairly drastic Cabinet reshuffle after the present Parliament session along with parallel changes in at least some of the Congress (I)-ruled States.

She will have decided by that time whether or not to induct Mr. Rajiv Gandhi into active politics by carving a special place for him in the party organisation. He is bound to have a say in the choice of the new Ministers or reallocation of portfolios, although he may not be thinking in terms of planting those personally loyal to him in key positions. It is only in this very limited context that the ouster of Mr. Shukla has come to assume some importance.

CSO: 4220/7477

PAPER REVIEWS CAREER OF FORMER CPI CHAIRMAN DANGE

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Apr 81 p 16

[Text] It is now a foregone conclusion that the National Council of the Communist Party of India will in due course ratify the central executive's unanimous decision to expel the former chairman, Mr. S. A. Dange, from the party. The decision has been literally forced on the CPI leadership, which, in spite of its differences with him, was reluctant to take the extreme step against one of the founders of the Indian communist movement.

Maverick that he is, this is not the first time in his 60 years of public life that the octo-generian leader is being expelled from the Communist Party. Way back in the 1920s when serving a prison term in connection with the Meerut conspiracy case, Mr. Dange was expelled from the newly formed party by fellow communist prisoners.

It had become obvious after the 11th congress of the CPI at Bhatinda in April 1978 that Mr. Dange was drifting away from the official party line. In fact he had given a comprehensive note criticising the draft political review report placed before the Congress by the leadership.

Mr. Dange's differences with the CPI leadership stem from the party's attitude towards the national bourgeoisie led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

At a symposium on the relevance of Jawaharlal Nehru, held in Delhi on December 4, 1977, Mr. Dange spoke eulogistically of Mrs. Gandhi's progressive role. He stirred a hornet's nest with his observation that Mrs. Gandhi deserved the support of progressive forces for giving directive principles priority over fundamental rights on the Constitution.

His detractors accuse Mr. Dange of always having pursued a collaborationist rather than a revolutionary path. They even charge him with political double dealing and cite as evidence a letter he is supposed to have written to the British Viceroy in 1925-26 from Kanpur jail offering his cooperation. Mr. Dange has described the letter as forgery.

It was not until 1964 that the alleged Dange letter was brought out of the National Archives. But doubts about his loyalty to the communist cause were cast even earlier. Two of Mr. Dange's fellow prisoners in Kanpur, Mr. Ben Bradley, a British communist activist, and Mr. S. S. Mirajkar, the Bombay trade union leader,

are said to have confided to comrades that they had their suspicions about him even in Kanpur jail, but kept their mouths shut so that the nascent movement was not crushed before it came of age.

Whatever the truth about the letter, Mr. Dange, after his release in 1927 plunged headlong into the trade union movement and built up the Girni Kamgar Union in Bombay. Before long he was back in prison in connection with the Meerut conspiracy case. While the rest of the accused led by Mr. R. S. Nimbkar made a joint statement before the magistrate, Mr. Dange chose a solitary path. Before long he was expelled from the party by fellow communists.

That probably explains why in spite of being one of the founders of the communist movement in this country, it was a good many years before Mr. Dange was given a place in the party's central committee, and it was only in 1951 that he was appointed to the Politburo, the highest decision making body. But his important position in the AITUC, coupled with the vice-presidentship of the World Federation of Trade Unions, has brought him close to Soviet leaders. In recognition of his services, Moscow has given him its highest award, the Order of Lenin.

As evidence of Mr. Dange's preference for the path of collaboration his detractors cite his opposition to the line of armed struggle chosen by the CPI soon after independence, which led to violent uprisings in Telengana and elsewhere. When differences in the party became sharp it was decided to send a mission to Moscow to seek guidance. Mr. Dange joined it and his hands were strengthened when Mr. Ajoy Ghosh became General Secretary of the undivided CPI.

Around this time Mr. Dange's parliamentary skill came to light through his very effective, though single-handed, fight against a security bill in the Bombay Assembly, to which he was elected in 1946 from the labour constituency. As leader of the communist bloc in the Lok Sabha from 1957 to 1962 Mr. Dange had a greater opportunity to deploy his debating talent. People across the country are also familiar with his powerful oratory.

Mr. Dange had little difficulty in deciding what the communist attitude should be to the Chinese attack on India in October 1962. Many communist leaders were held in custody following the outbreak of hostilities, but Mr. Dange was among the first to be released within a few days. Because of his standing with the Soviet leaders he visited Moscow, apparently at Nehru's instance, to seek Soviet support.

When eventually the CPI split in 1964, Mr. Dange steered the faction led by him closer to the Congress. The honeymoon lasted many years. It was only after the Emergency that a section of the CPI began to accuse the Government of "fascist tactics". Mr. Dange saw nothing wrong in Mrs. Gandhi's actions but felt some others in the Government had taken advantage of the situation.

When his efforts to bring the party back to his line of thinking failed, he quit the post of chairman--he was the only incumbent since its creation in 1962--as also the central executive in February 1980. Formally he continues to be a member of the national council.

Why has Mr. Dange chosen to stick his neck out at this late stage in his life? The CPI and the CPI(M) are not only coming closer but are equally friendly towards the Soviet Union. Is it likely that ignoring the claims of these two the Soviet leadership will turn to the newly founded All-India Communist Party of Mr. Dange's daughter, Mrs. Roza Deshpande? Many think Mr. Dange has created an embarrassing situation for Moscow.

GUJARAT ALL-PARTY PEACE COMMITTEE DISSOLVED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Apr 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Ahmedabad, April 5.--An all-party peace committee, appointed to go into violent incidents and alleged police atrocities during the Gujarat medicos' agitation, has been dissolved reports PTI.

Mr Babubhai Patel, a former Chief Minister and chairman of the committee, announcing this here, said the peace panel had been dissolved since most of its members felt that the committee could not fulfil its purpose.

"We would have continued, had the Government implemented our recommendations to check police atrocities" Mr Patel told reporters yesterday after talks with the Chief Minister Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, during which Mr Solanki had described the committee as "useful in sorting out many issues".

Mr Chimanbhai Patel, the Gujarat Lok Dal president, resigned from the committee on Friday.

/The reservationists pledged here to fight the anti-reservationists "till the end of our life" while the latter found another supporter in the newly-formed Upper Caste Interest Protection Committee today./ [in boldface]

Dr Babu Demore, who headed the reservationists' delegation to Delhi, led doctors, employees and workers coming from Dalit, Adivasi, Harijan and other backward classes in taking the pledge at the statue of B. R. Ambedkar for the preservation and implementation of their constitutional rights on the birthday of Mr Jagjivan Ram.

They decided to present memoranda containing their 25 demands to district collectors in the State tomorrow and organize a "massive" rally here on April 14--Ambedkar's birth anniversary. [as published]

A decision to merge the two principal anti-reservation bodies--the Gujarat Junior Doctors' Association, which is demanding abolition of reservation from post-graduate medical courses, and the Anti-Reservation Committee, which is seeking withdrawal of reservation from every field--was taken at their joint meeting today, according to a Press release by the Anti-Reservation Committee.

A new "federation", made up of representatives from all walks of life, would be formed to carry on the agitation, not only in Gujarat but all over the country, the release said.

The meeting "unanimously" decided, the release said, to foster unity among the anti-reservationists and "intensify" their agitation.

Central Government employees in Gujarat decided today to intensify their agitation against reservation and the roster system of promotion.

The Gujarat Janata vice-president, Mr Jairam Patel, said in a statement that the Jaisukhlal Hathi mediation mission had failed because the Prime Minister was "not interested in settling the problem now". He demanded the resignation of the Solanki Government for its "failure" to tackle the situation.

UNI adds: Barring stone-throwing at two places in Baroda late tonight which the police put down with the firing of tear-gas shells, the whole of Gujarat was peaceful.

Ten Bharatiya Janata Party workers, including Mr Ashok Bhatt, MLA, and a former Deputy Mayor, Mr Jayendra Pandit, were arrested today when they started a 24-hour fast in the Khadia locality of Ahmedabad to protest against "police excesses".
[as published]

The arrests were made for breach of prohibitory orders. They were produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate, who released them on bail.

A 52-member delegation of Harijans and Muslims, led by the Congress (U) leader, Mr Jagjivan Ram's son, Mr Suresh Kumar, will visit Gujarat soon in support of the Scheduled Caste and backward classes of the State.

CSO: 4220/7483

NAGA LEADER FOR TALKS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] Kohima, April 5.--Mr Zimik Ramyo, one of the former three-member underground Naga delegation which met the self-exiled Naga leader, Mr A. Z. Phizo, in London recently, has reiterated his team's determination to pursue the process initiated towards finding a peaceful solution to the Naga problem through discussions, reports PTI.

The Government of India was trying to "impose" certain conditions, while Mr Phizo wanted talks without any pre-condition, Mr Ramyo said in a statement here.

An "imposed settlement is no settlement at all. Nor should it be a settlement at the pleasure of one party", he added.

Mr Ramyo stated that Mr Phizo considered as pre-conditions the six basic issues conveyed to him by the Government of India representative, who accompanied the three-member delegation as a liaison officer.

The delegation on its return from London, met the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and communicated Mr Phizo's "strong opinion"--that talks without any pre-conditions could bring about a political understanding, leading to a peaceful solution to the Naga problem.

The six basic issues communicated to Mr Phizo and released to the Press by Mr Ramyo are that benefits have accrued to the Nagas by being a part of India; that there is a weakening of the Naga movement at home and abroad; and that Nagaland enjoys a special constitutional status and safeguards under the Constitution of India.

A lot of development activities have taken place by being a part of India, the issues state, and so, if Mr Phizo wants something more, he should accept the Shillong Accord (of 1975, signed between the Government of India and the Naga underground) and then hold negotiations, for which Clause III (of the accord) provides sufficient scope.

Besides, a group of his (Mr Phizo's) followers has broken away from him and has denounced his leadership. So this is the most opportune moment for him to face reality.

CSO: 4220/7483

NORTHEAST STATES' BORDER DISPUTES CAUSE CONCERN

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Apr 81 p 8

[Text] The concern of Mr. L. P. Singh, Governor of the North-Eastern States, over the persisting border dispute among Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya is reflected in his recent budget speeches in the State Assemblies. Besides the frequent "arrests" of policemen of one State by those of another has only embittered the relations among the law enforcing agencies. Because of this recrimination and lack of coordination, the insurgents of Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram are moving about freely in the insurgency-hit region to intensify their underground activities.

Informed sources say that the Governor has expressed his unhappiness to the Chief Ministers and at the same time stressed the imperative need to coordinate the security measures to curb effectively the burgeoning insurgency [as published] which has hampered the implementation of development programmes.

There is no indication however, that the State Chief Ministers are ready to be accommodative. In most cases, the disputed areas are reserved forest; forest resources are the sole means of livelihood of the tribals. The issue is further complicated by the absence of well-demarcated border lines.

On January 20, 1979 the Revenue Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya had reached an agreement on the demarcation of the inter-State boundary. It was widely believed that with this accord, the border dispute between these two States would be solved amicably. But this hope proved to be illusory when on February 15, a team of Assam police under the command of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police (western range) "arrested" nine policemen of Meghalaya at Langpid and allegedly took away their rifles, ammunition and wireless sets. The Assam police dug up trenches and posted machine gun-brandishing policemen "as if they are preparing for a war" according to the Meghalaya police.

The Assam police's contention was that Langpid area was within the boundary of Assam. Therefore the setting up of the police outpost by the Meghalaya police was a "provocation". It also alleged that the Meghalaya police had ignored repeated requests by the Assam police to withdraw. The Meghalaya police, however, argued that the police outpost was raised in early 1973 and that till 1979 the Assam police had not lodged any complaint. The Assam police were accused of directing their attention to the Langpid outpost as diversionary tactics following the massacre of Assamese villagers by Naga rebels in 1979.

The Meghalaya police complained that apart from arresting the nine policemen, the Assam police arrested 15 tribals and subjected them to "harassment". Besides the district authorities of Assam ordered the tribals of Meghalaya to vacate the area as they claimed the Langpid area belonged to Assam.

Mr. D. D. Pugh, the then Chief Minister of Meghalaya, apprised the Governor of the disturbing developments. Mr. L. P. Singh is understood to have expressed his deep concern over the "unfortunate and unnecessary" incidents. At the instance of the Governor, the Chief Secretaries and other top-ranking officials of Assam and Meghalaya met at Gauhati to sign an interim agreement.

Mr. L. C. Mawroh, DIG of Meghalaya told newsmen that under the interim agreement, the Assam police had to vacate a church building at Mawlan which they had been occupying.

The dispute between Manipur and Nagaland has caused headache to the officials. Both the States term it "land dispute" avoiding the words "border dispute" although the bone of contention is border villages. The age-old practice of the tribals is to sneak into each others reserved forests to fell trees for logs and firewoods. Naturally frequent clashes occur among the villagers. Sometimes an entire village is burnt to cinders.

Without informing Manipur police, the Nagaland Armed Police arrested Ng. Buni, an inhabitant of Jamai village in Manipur on June 22 on the charge of instigating villagers. On June 25 the two Chief Secretaries of Nagaland and Manipur met in Kohima to sort out the differences. Mr. L. B. Thanga, Chief Secretary of Manipur, demanded the unconditional release of Buni before any meaningful talk could be held. He was released on June 26.

In the absence of a clear-cut boundary and deployment of security forces, the villagers continue to sneak into the reserved forests. Nagaland has taken up the most effective precautionary measures against encroachment. For instance, hospitals for dreaded diseases like tuberculosis and leprosy have been constructed along the border to ward off encroachers.

Assam and Nagaland always have had border troubles; two years ago, over 50 Assamese villagers were massacred by Naga rebels. The Nagaland Government charges Assam with encouraging its villagers to settle inside the reserved forests. The Assam Government counters it by saying that the reserved forests are within Assam's territory. Nagaland maintains that these reserved forests should be returned to Nagaland without any condition. In an exclusive interview, Mr. Vizol, the then Chief Minister of Nagaland, told this correspondent that those reserved forests formed an important part of the 16-point agreement of 1960 between a Naga delegation and the Union Government.

The massacre of the Assamese villagers is shrouded in mystery. It is believed that a group of armed gunmen shot them dead without giving them any chance to flee. Despite the combined efforts of the Nagaland Armed police, the Assam police and the Nagaland sector of the Indian army, these gunmen could not be tracked.

Informed sources say that the gunmen were the suicide squad of Tangkhul Muivah who had assumed the leadership of the Naga rebels. They had just returned from China where they had training after breaking away from the Phizo group.

In order to resolve the crisis, Mr. Vizol and Mr. Golap Borbora, then Chief Minister of Assam, met in April 1979 in the presence of Mr. H. M. Patel, the then Union Home Minister. The talks failed.

In view of the recrudescence of violence in the insurgency-hit North Eastern region, the need for resolving the inter-State boundary and coordinating the counter-insurgency measures by the State police have become imperative.

Recent reports show that Naga rebels and Manipuri insurgents have joined hands for a concerted onslaught. The Naga rebels under the leadership of Tangk. Muivah have opened camps in Ukhrul, Manipur. They have started killing followers of Angami Phizo and those who are striving for a peaceful settlement of the Naga issue.

CSO: 4220/7484

DELHI CONCERNED AT INFLUX OF BANGLADESH NATIONALS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Apr 81 p 1

[Text]

The Government of India was "seriously concerned" over the clandestine entry of a large number of Bangladesh nationals into West Bengal and the North-eastern States, a senior spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in Calcutta on Thursday. He said that the Government was aware of the "alarming dimension" that the problem had assumed in recent years and was in touch with the Bangladesh Government. He did not rule out the possibility of early Indo-Bangladesh talks on the issue.

The spokesman said that the Government of India considered the problem of infiltration of Bangladesh nationals into India as "much more serious" than that of

"overstay by more than 200,000 Bangladesh nationals who had come to India with valid travel documents but did not return to their country. Delhi was well aware of the tension that the influx of Bangladeshis was causing in the bordering Indian States.

West Bengal had now become the main destination point for illegal immigrants from Bangladesh because of trouble and tension in the North-eastern States. The spokesman said that apart from the recent census enumeration there were other definite indicators with the Government which proved large-scale clandestine entry of Bangladesh nationals into India.

CSO: 4220/7468

COMMITTEE SCORES REGULATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has found a "total and all pervasive lack of will" to regulate the operations of foreign companies in India in tune with the pronounced policy objectives and national interests, reports PTI.

The latest example was the case of "excessive allowance" of head office expenses year after year while computing the business income of a multinational corporation, M/s International Computers Ltd., UK, engaged in the business of manufacturing the hiring data processing machines.

This resulted in a short levy of tax to the tune of Rs 42.5 lakhs during the years 1961-62 to 1974-75, the PAC said in its 28th report presented to the Lok Sabha on Friday.

The PAC strongly recommended the creation of a separate cell, preferably in the Finance Ministry, to ensure compliance by foreign companies with the country's laws, rules and procedures.

This focal point should oversee and collate authentic and up-to-date data and suggest remedial measures or modifications of the existing control systems, it said.

Considering the nature, gravity and number of errors, both of omission and commission, noticed in the ICL case, the PAC urged a thorough probe by the special cell of the Directorate of Inspection (Investigation) in the Department of Revenue. The cases of other companies like IBM World Trade Corporation should also be taken up along with it.

Cases of Abuse

The PAC said that the specific cases that had come before it from time to time were examples of abuse by the foreign companies as a result of complacency in the part of the Finance Ministry.

In its earlier reports, the committee had drawn attention to an almost total lack of control both by the taxation authorities and the Reserve Bank of India about the claims made by the companies in respect of headoffice expenses.

As a result of its enquiries, a very large number of assessments involving crores of rupees had been reopened.

The PAC was constrained to note that there was little evidence of Ministry itself showing initiative apart from reacting to the specific irregularities pointed out by audit or by the Committee.

It criticised the non-availability of data about total foreign investment after 1974. The investment had gone up from Rs 894 crores in 1964 to Rs 1943 crores in 1974.

In the absence of relevant data either from the Reserve Bank of India or Finance Ministry, the control that could be exercised on the operations of foreign companies could at best be "illusory", it said.

Weakness

In the opinion of the PAC, the primary weakness in designing and enforcing adequate control mechanisms are piecemeal solutions through ad hoc amendments to laws and procedures, absence of a system of building up management information to design as well as monitor policy and lack of will to regulate foreign companies.

It said the special cell for tackling tax evasion by large industrial houses had been given very few foreign enterprises. The committee has recommended enlargement of the roles of the foreign tax division and the special cell within the department of revenue. The former should initiate studies and actively guide the field units and the latter investigate the tax assessments of bigger foreign firms.

CSO: 4220/7476

BORDER SECURITY OFFICERS HOLD 3-DAY MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Apr 81 p 8

[Text]

The Border Security Force of India and Bangladesh Rifles have decided to take prompt steps to check infiltration and smuggling along the 404-km-long border.

A three-day meeting of the officers of the two forces, which concluded on Friday, decided that there would be border flag meetings between the representatives of the BSF and BDR to ensure that the miscreants were promptly apprehended and the looted property recovered.

About the problem of illegal infiltration to India, it was decided that a list of suspects encouraging illegal crossings should be handed over to the BDR. Special drives would also be launched along the

Indo-Bangladesh border to prevent smuggling.

The meeting decided to hold half-yearly meetings of the two sides at the inspectors-general level.

The Bangladesh delegation to the meeting was led by Major General Atiqur Rehman, Director-General, Bangladesh Rifles, and the Indian side by Director-General of Border Security Forces K Ramamurti.

The delegation also called on Union Home Minister Zail Singh and was with him for half hour. An official press note later said that the talks were held in a

[as published]

CSO: 4220/7476

EXTREMISTS ACCUSED IN NORTHEAST RAIL BLASTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, April 3.--The Railway Minister, Mr Kedar Pandey, told the Lok Sabha today that recent incidents of trains jumping the rails in the north-east and bomb explosions on railway tracks were "an off-shoot" of the Assam agitation.

Funds had been allocated for track security measures, but the situation could only be tackled by all political parties cooperating to bring the Assam agitation to an end. "We seek your cooperation in this," Mr Pandey said, appealing to the Opposition.

The Railway Minister was replying to points raised in the course of a call attention motion moved by Mr Ram Vilas Paswan (LD), and three others. Mr Pandey added that replacing of tracks and improvement of rolling stock in that sector were also essential.

At least one sponsor of the motion, Mr Chitta Basu (FB), was of the view that extremist elements, divorced from the masses in Assam, were increasingly taking recourse to violent actions, and were responsible for the recent simultaneous series of bomb explosions.

He said that during the past three months there had been between 25 and 30 bomb explosions on railway tracks in that region. He asked: "Was the Government not aware of these, and what action had been taken?"

In a statement in response to the motion, Mr Pandey told the House that in the derailment of the 3 Up Assam Mail on Tuesday night one person was killed and 12 sustained simple injuries. "It is learnt that the explosives experts who visited the site have expressed the opinion that this accident was caused by the use of some explosive device under the rail joints."

In respect of another derailment, of a goods train between Nalbari and Chograpar in the early hours of Wednesday, the possibility of sabotage could not be ruled out. "Fortunately, this accident did not involve any casualty."

There were, Mr Pandey said, at least five bomb explosions affecting rail movement on the North-East Frontier Railway in Assam on the night of Tuesday-Wednesday.

CSO: 4220/7474

INTERNATIONAL RACKET LURES INDIANS OVERSEAS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] Singapore, April 3.--An international employment racket is believed to be luring Indians and Pakistanis to countries overseas, including Singapore, with false promises of jobs, reports AFP.

The emigrants end up working without permits and disobeying the law.

Since January, the Singapore Immigration Department has prosecuted about 70 Indians and Pakistanis for overstaying and/or working here while on social visit passes. They have been fined between \$47 and \$430.

They had been found by immigration field officers to be working without work permits on various construction sites and even with a security agency here.

"In some cases they were approached by labour supply agents in India who, for fees ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,000, promised to get them jobs overseas, including Singapore", said the STRAITS TIMES.

Those who come to Singapore are given some money and a return ticket for travel by air or sea for immigration clearance. When they arrive at the immigration checkpoint they are issued social visit passes.

But after they have checked in to a hotel the agents collect the return ticket and some money lent to them, said the paper.

Some skilled workers finding themselves left without enough money to return home, seek jobs for themselves on construction sites or with security firms.

When applications for extension of their social visit passes are refused they remain in Singapore and continue to work until discovered during raids by immigration field officers.

Six employers have been taken to court since January charged with employing foreigners on social visit passes.

CSO: 4220/7474

'MCCARTHYISM' CLAIMED IN CIVIL SERVICE HIRING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Apr 81 p 6

[Text] April 3.--A division bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Mr Justice A. C. Gupta and Mr Justice D. A. Desai, today admitted a civil writ petition alleging "Macarthyism" in matters of appointments to the Central services. The writ was filed by Mr M. A. Baby, president of the Students' Federation of India.

The writ, filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, challenges the constitutional validity of the executive instructions, issued by the Union of India, in the matter of appointments to Government posts and services. The petitioner has contended that these instructions are being used as a "weapon" against the persons who are suspected to be the sympathizers of certain political parties.

The petition refers to certain "separate administrative" instructions adopted by the Government of India to verify the "character and antecedents" of candidates belonging to the States of Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura. From this have followed, the petitioner alleges, the secret executive instructions in general to verify the "character and antecedents" of candidates. The verification is to be done by agents of the intelligence bureau. The petitioner has contended that this is a violation of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

The petitioner contends that these instructions have created "reasonable apprehension" in the minds of the citizens that those persons believing in "leftist ideology" will be denied Government jobs. Normally the verification is done by State Government agencies. But by entrusting this job, in addition to the State agencies, to the Central intelligence agencies, the petitioner has prayed, the Union Government has shown lack of confidence in constitutionally-established State Governments.

The petition cites a number of instances in which candidates belonging to Marxist organizations were not given the jobs which they deserved on the basis of their educational qualifications. It refers to the case of one Mr Ramakrishnan of Kerala who lost a job because the local CID report had dubbed him as a "hardened Communist". This report was, however, not accepted by the senior police officials and Mr Ramakrishnan eventually got into the Indian Administrative Service.

The petition also says that even those who come to Delhi after travelling 3,000 kilometers from Kerala on receipt of appointment orders, are not allowed to join the duty for the reason that C.I. reports about them have not been received by the appointing authorities.

CSO: 4220/7474

IMF SEEN IN NEED OF HELP FROM WEALTHY COUNTRIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Apr 81 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] By May this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may not have enough money to lend to third world debtor countries. This is a frightening prospect. If one country with a large debt burden (Brazil owes \$56 billion) defaults, this could bring the international financial system crashing down. Things have come to such a pass because private Western banks (to which most of the debt is owed) are reluctant to keep on extending credit and the IMF cannot find enough money elsewhere to fill in the breach. The total debt of third world countries, is now over 400 billion and it is rising. The IMF, which is a kind of international banker's club, could in the past persuade private banks to give sizeable credits by underwriting their loans. The IMF also made loans from its own fund. But this fund is going down because rich western countries whose subscriptions accounted for most of it will no longer give as much as they used to. Though some of the oil producers like Saudi Arabia (which has given \$10 billion to the IMF) are prepared to help, this is not enough. The OPEC governments also want to extract a political price for their favours such as IMF recognition of the PLO, which the Western dominated institution is most reluctant to pay.

Of course Western private banks do have to extend some credit to keep their debts rolling. But they are demanding that the IMF give an even larger proportion of the money debtors need for interest and capital payments that fall due. This the IMF is finding it more and more difficult to do. There is also another complicating factor. The IMF insists that debtor countries accept its policy prescriptions if they want a loan. The IMF invariably prescribes devaluation of a country's exchange rate, elimination of subsidies, cuts in welfare expenditure, keeping the lid on wages and at the same time letting prices of staple commodities find their own level. But many countries, which have pursued these policies, have found that their economic situation became worse and their debts increased. So now some countries with large debts like Tanzania want IMF help but on their own terms.

CSO: 4220/7472

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT REPORTS IMF DEVELOPMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Apr 81 p 9

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text]

WASHINGTON, April 6

An IMF team, headed by Mr. Yun Tsin, director of the Asian department, is in India at a sensitive stage of negotiation for the largest extended arrangement in the institution's history.

The extended stay between April 5 and 22, will cover more than one purpose—including the routine annual effort known as Article IV consultation that, in the case of India, usually takes place in April and discussions preceding the convening of the Asia-Pacific Conference in Paris on June 8.

The rigour of the conditionality imposed on by the International Monetary Fund has created some problems for the Government of India, notably in the field of overall credit expansion and fiscal performance where ardent criteria are sought to be laid down for the first year in the three-year period of the extended arrangement.

The requirement that a specific ceiling be accepted for deficit financing as well as money supply is considered particularly tricky by the Indian negotiators, since these are considered by Central Governments in India as unavoidable features of a way of life.

As for the third area where conditionality is insisted upon—exchange and import restriction action for balance of payments reasons—there appears to be no major difficulty between the Fund and the Government of India.

It has not gone unnoticed here that during the period of the discussions, there have been moderate doses of de facto devaluation of the Indian rupee.

The basket arrangement which manages the exchange rate of the Indian currency is classified under 'other' in the Fund's literature which tries to identify the precise mechanism and the objective standards, if any, for determining exchange rates of currencies. In the case of the rupee, the precise mechanism of the 'floating' arrangement is still something of a secret in the Fund.

The impending loan to India apart, the biggest news in the Fund is the agreement negotiated recently with

Saudi Arabia. The influence of Saudi Arabia as a member is bound to rise tremendously over the next three years in conjunction with the quota increase and lending commitments negotiated by the Fund.

Saudi offer

In an agreement concluded in principle on March 24, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) has committed itself to lending to the Fund four billion SDR each during the first and second years of the agreement.

The Saudis have also indicated their intention to enter into a further commitment for the third year if their balance of payments and reserve position so permits.

The SDR today stands at \$1.213.

The IMF's Managing Director, Mr. J. De Larosiere, actually called a weekend press conference—an exceptional event in the country—to announce the commitment by Saudi Arabia, which, he said, would allow us to continue our lending operations, without difficulties, for the benefit of countries whose balance of payments difficulties are pressing and for the smooth functioning of the recycling process.

In the process, the Saudis have had their Fund quota increased from its present level of 1,041 billion SDR to 2.10 billion SDR, a rise from a 1.74 per cent share of the total quotas to approximately 3.8 per cent.

The quota increase, which will make Saudi Arabia the sixth-ranking member in terms of voting power, was presented flatteringly by the Fund's Managing Director as a simple bringing in line 'taking into account the relative importance of Saudi Arabia in the world economy.'

Attempting to present these as strictly financial matters, Mr. Larosiere said in answer to a question that the issue of observer status for the Palestine Liberation Organisation—an issue the Saudis have appeared to champion—must be dealt with later by the IMF member-countries.

The deal with the Saudis, which has features described by the Fund's Managing Director as 'market-oriented' will

remove the pressure for the multilateral agency to go directly to private capital markets for resources. It is regarded as quite a feather in Mr. Larosiere's cap.

Meanwhile, the IMF has announced that it has completed the first loan disbursements from the trust fund, which will be wound up on April 30.

The trust fund was instituted in May 1976 to 'provide balance of payments assistance on concessional terms to eligible developing members'. Its resources were derived in the main from profits from the sale of 25 million ounces of the Fund's gold at public auctions. During four years from June 1976 to May 1980, these sales raised \$4.64 billion.

A part of the profits was transferred directly to the 104 developing member-countries in proportion to their 1975 quotas in the Fund. India, as the largest developing member-country, before China came in, netted \$140.33 millions of the \$1.29 billion distributed as profits from the gold sales.

The remainder of the profits, augmented by investment income and other transfers to the trust, was used to disburse balance of payments loans. The disbursements were made in two periods—\$41 million SDR to 43 countries from July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1978, and 2.15 billion SDR to 53 countries from July 1, 1978 to February 28, 1981.

India took no loan from the trust fund during the first period, but made up for it in the second period with a figure of \$28.01 million SDR.

The other member-countries that have received over 100 million SDR from the total trust fund loan disbursements are China (\$98.53 million SDR), Pakistan (\$29.66 million), Egypt (\$18.72 million), the Philippines (\$14.47 million), Thailand (\$13.85 million), Bangladesh (\$12.16 million), and Morocco and Zaire (\$11.43 million each).

Whether it is the World Bank, the International Development Agency, or the IMF, the Government of India has a clear lead as the pre-eminent borrower.

WRITER ANALYZES RESULTS OF 1981 CENSUS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Apr 81 pp 2, 7

[Article by M. M. Khullar]

[Text] Preliminary results of 1981 Census have once again brought the focus on the menace of teeming millions in India. The population has nearly doubled since Independence. During the three decades from 1951 to 1981, the increase has been from 361 million to 684 million. Except the Peoples Republic of China, there is no country in the world including the United States of America and the Soviet Union whose total population would match the mere increase of numbers in India. The States of UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh account for 59 per cent of the population in India and each of them has more than 50 million people ranging from 52.1 in MP and 110.8 in Uttar Pradesh. Among these most populous States, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have recorded the highest decennial growth of population by more than 25 per cent. Incidentally these States are also characterised by the highest birth rate of 38.4 in Madhya Pradesh and 40.3 for UP in the year 1979. The death rates in these two States for the corresponding period are also estimated to be the highest in the country standing at 17.9 and 19.1 respectively as against the national figure of 14.7 and the lowest for Kerala being 7.2. With definite prospects and the imperative of reducing the death rates, demographically speaking, there is an explosive situation in the States of UP and Madhya Pradesh alone which currently represent 38.46 per cent of the country's population.

Sample registration data and the findings of 1981 Census have been at variance with each other. The draft sixth Plan (1980-85) had estimated for 1981 birth rate at 32.9 and the death rate of 13.2. The census figures show the birth rate and death rate of 36 and 14.8 respectively. Apparently, neither the birth rate nor the death rate has fallen to the expected levels. This portends a danger and a challenge which needs to be met with adequate resources and appropriate strategy plugging all leakages and lacunae that prevent a breakthrough in the programmes of stabilising population in India.

The consequences of rapid growth of population in the context of socio-economic conditions in India are far too obvious and, as such, hardly require much of reiteration. Despite the literacy rate having increased from 16.6 in 1951 to 34.8 in 1981, the number of illiterates in India is more than 400 million. In absolute terms, the number of illiterates has increased by 100 million persons. India has taken three decades to add 178 millions to the stock of literates in the

country; it is shocking to imagine the span of time and the resources required to clear the existing backlog of illiteracy estimated at nearly 440 millions.

Likewise in the housing sector, the annual construction rate of 3-4 units per thousand population as against the recommended or desired level of 10 units per thousand has added to the backlog of housing shortage in the country. Increasing urban population, sky-rocketing land prices in the metropolitan areas, mounting rents and rising cost of construction--making ownership of a dwelling an impossible task for the vast majority of people--almost present a nightmare, threatening to create slums, over-crowding, privation and hardship which might disrupt harmony and peace at home and in the society at large. Regional imbalances and rural-urban disparities add another dimension which needs immediate recognition, diagnosis and remedial action.

The problems of health and nutrition are severe and complex. Prevailing death rates and infant mortality in some of the States and the estimates of people below the poverty line are indeed suggestive of a dismal record and an extremely difficult task for the people and the Government. In 1979-80, 48.44 per cent of the Indian population was below the poverty line which gives the figure of more than 300 million people. This is indeed a staggering figure, and it is nearly impossible under the existing conditions to tackle the problem in the foreseeable future. Growing unemployment and the vast sea of under-employment signify a colossal waste of human resources. Imperceptible and sometimes doubtful improvement in the levels of per-capita income hardly make positive bodings for the future unless the tide of teeming millions is stemmed through imagination and resolute action on the part of Government and the people. In view of the aforesaid, the pertinent question is that of identifying the social and economic factors that influence the demographic parameters in the Indian society

The Family Welfare Programmes do not seem to have made uniform progress in the various States of India. Again, economic development, as measured by the per capita Gross Domestic Product or the proportion of urban population offers no guarantee of successful family planning in a particular State or region. In the State of Gujarat, with 30 per cent urban population and the per capita national product for 1977-78 at Rs 1341--which is nearly twice the level of Bihar--the birth rate for the rural and urban population in 1976 was estimated to be higher than the estimates for the country. Kerala with much lower per capita NDP and much smaller proportion of urban population has had the impressive record of much lower birth rate.

Cost-effectiveness of public expenditure on family planning also shows considerable variation. In 1976, when family planning and the rigor of its implementation were projected almost as a scandal, the per capita expenditure on family planning was Rs 2.45. Among the major States with population of more than 10 million, the highest per capita expenditure of Rs 3.17 was in Madhya Pradesh and the lowest figure of Rs 0.95 is stated to be for Tamilnadu. In terms of achievements and demographic behaviour, currently married protected couples had higher proportion in Tamilnadu than in Madhya Pradesh. In 1979, Uttar Pradesh had lower per capita expenditure of Rs 2.43 and the protection also reached only 11.9 per cent of the currently married couples as against the figure of 22.8 per cent for the country.

Literacy and the age of marriage seem to be some of the other important factors influencing the size of the family. The average age of females in respect of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and UP, is around 15 years which is much lower as compared to Tamilnadu and Kerala where it stands at 19.61 and 20.9 respectively. It may be emphasized here that the literacy rates in the former category of States is much lower than the All India literacy rate whereas in the case of Tamilnadu and Kerala, the levels of literacy are higher than the national figure. Although failures and inadequacies in the matter of social development may explain the persistence of casteism and ignorance about the real content or scientific interpretation of the so-called religious injunctions on the practice of family planning, yet there is no denying the fact that some people show ostensible dislike and resistance for family planning notwithstanding the inhuman conditions of living to which they may expose their progeny or innumerable hurdles they might create in the path to rapid socio-economic development of the country.

It is evident from the above facts that there is need for a selective approach in terms of regions and various strata of society if, with the given resources, significant progress is to be made in the sphere of family planning. The notion that licence of freedom under democracy can be used to perpetuate poverty and deprivation needs to be seriously discounted. It is not a matter of ideology but essentially a question of irrefutable logic and pragmatism that restricting the growth of population in the under-developed countries like India holds the key to unleashing of the forces of social dynamism and economic growth. While accent on voluntary adoption of family planning practices is quite understandable, one finds it difficult to appreciate the absence of package programme incorporating certain fiscal and monetary incentives and disincentives that would compel the parents to curb their reckless impulses to beget children without any sense of social responsibility or parental obligation.

Insistence on some correlation between levels of income and the size of family, the limitation of access to benefits in the field of education, health care and employment for stipulated number of children, imposition of cess on those deviating from well-defined norms regarding size of the family for the provision of social services are some of the measures that could be adopted to create the requisite conditions for controlling demographic explosion. Family planning must be rescued from populist and political considerations if serious dent is to be made in the emerging alarming situation in the country. Division of responsibility between the Centre and the States regarding family planning and health care facilities warrants a review, better coordination and a more integrated approach.

In the period 1974-80, a sum of Rs 687 crores, giving approximately the annual average of one hundred crore of rupees, has been spent on family welfare. In the Draft Sixth Plan (1980-85), the proposed outlay on family planning is Rs 1010 crores. This indicates almost hundred per cent increase in the level of annual expenditure. Judicious spending combined with imaginative and purposeful and well-conceived policy-frame based on strict priorities does have some promise of reasonable fulfilment in case the resources are not frittered away in adhocism and juvenile enthusiasm for family planning in India.

CENSUS OPERATIONS IN ANDAMAN, NICOBAR REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Apr 81 p 16

[Text] Port Blair, April 3.

Sentinelese, a hostile tribal group, was not covered during the census operations in Andaman and Nicobar islands according to Mr. Brojesh Singh who directed the operations. The tribals could not be approached, he said.

However, he said, Jarwas, another hostile group of tribals, had been approached this time and 36 of them were counted.

The operations took 20 days, employing 800 men and had a budget of Rs. 5 lakhs. Seventy rural and 84 urban blocks were covered. The provisional population figure was put at 115,133.

In comparison to other Union Territory figures the islands came second after Chandigarh. The highest growth rate was in Nancowry tehsil with 83.2 per cent.

The growth rate in Port Blair tehsil was 79.4 per cent. In Nicobar and Carnicobar the growth rate was only 14.64 per cent.

The rate of literacy improved from 43.59 per cent in 1971 to 51.27 per cent. The rise in literacy among females came to 10.74 per cent against 6.8 per cent for males.

CSO: 4220/7475

TRIBALS IN SOUTHERN BIHAR DECLARE INDEPENDENCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, April 7 (UNI).

A group of tribals in southern Bihar are claiming independence on the basis of a 150-year-old document.

Thousands of tribals of Kolhan in Singhbhum district were told at a meeting at Chaibasa last week that the government of free India had no right to rule their territory which had been administered under Wilkinson's rule of the Bengal regulation XIII of 1833.

Mr. Pius Tirkey, RSP member of Parliament from West Bengal, gave UNI a gist of the "disturbing" proceedings of the March 30 meeting at which he said he was the chief guest.

According to Mr. Tirkey, Mr. Narayan Jonko, founder of the Kolhan Raksha Dal, told the tribals that legally "Kolhan state" was last governed by the secretary of state for British India whose work had since 1947 been taken over by the secretary of state for the Commonwealth.

While handing over power to India and Pakistan, the British government had made some exceptions, which included the Kolhan government estate, Mr. Jonko said.

He had written to the Commonwealth secretary, London, declaring, on behalf of the "citizens of the Kolhan government estate, our independent allegiance to the membership of the Commonwealth community."

Mr. Jonko described how the "Kolhanese" had been uprooted from their "homeland", deprived of forest rights and exploited by contractors.

After Mr. Jonko's address, the sangh leaders raised their new national flag--green with a white circle in the middle showing an arrow drawn on a bow, the tribals' traditional weapon.

A tribal belt, inhabited by the Ho, Munda, Santhal, Oraon and other clans, Kolhan has an area of over 2,200 sq. km., most of which is thick jungle hardly accessible for outsiders, Mr. Tirkey said.

Union home ministry officials, approached for comment, said they had just heard about the development and were seeking details.

The officials said they thought it sounded more like an expression of anger at being neglected than any serious political intention.

CSO: 4220/7494

CORRESPONDENT NOTES RIVALRIES IN SIKH POLITICS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Apr 81 p 7

[Text]

GHANTINGARH, April 6.—Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra, president of the Akhand Kaurwara Prabandhak Committee, whose position has been threatened as a result of rivalries in Akali politics, has declared a virtual war against the Central Government.

It was during his chairmanship a few days ago that the SGPC took the unusual stand of declaring the Sikhs a separate nation. Recently, he decided that the SGPC batch would not participate in the Panja Sahib pilgrimages to Pakistan because no increase in the number of SGPC pilgrims was allowed.

On Friday, he came out with a strong statement against the Centre for interference in Sikh religious affairs.

Apparently cut to the quick by the Centre's decision to send the pilgrims to the Panja Sahib in Pakistan under the leadership of Mr Santokh Singh, a Dalit Akali leader who is close to the Congress (I), Mr Tohra was given a hint that his followers might physically stop the pilgrims led by Mr Santokh Singh from entering Pakistan. At least this is what reports from Amritsar say.

It can safely be said on the basis of Mr Tohra's statement that he is worried more about Mr Santokh Singh leading the batch, rather than the dispute on the number allotted to the SGPC. He has said that it was for the first time that a political leader would be leading the pilgrims "jaiko" to Pakistan. But the fact is that it has mostly been a political leader, Mr Santokh Singh, who has led the "jaiko" in the past. The problem this time is that Mr Santokh Singh does not belong to the Akali faction to which Mr Tohra, belongs.

Mr Santokh Singh recently contested the election to the Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee chairmanship against the nominee of Mr Tohra's group of Akalis. Mr Tohra belongs to the Sant Longowal group. Mr Tohra was in this attempt by the Centre to weaken his hold over gurdwaras, which in turn helps influence Akali politics.

The Akali faction led by Mr Jodha Singh Talwandi has been trying to wrest the initiative from Mr Tohra and his colleagues by extremist postures. The Punjab Government's decision to let pilgrims go on their own from Punjab after the SGPC refused to participate in the Panja Sahib pilgrimages has made things worse for Mr Tohra, for another means of patronage seems to be slipping from his hands.

The recent efforts by Mr Ganga Singh Dhillon, a Sikh leader settled in the USA, to get some facilities for the Sikhs and his direct talks with the Pakistan President name is another blow to Mr Tohra's position, for the SGPC so far has been considered supreme in discussing religious matters.

Mr Tohra and his colleagues are understood to be scared of such developments meant to reduce their area of influence and have privately alleged that the ruling party at the Centre is responsible for the campaign against them. In the past, they have also charged Mr Charan Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab, with creating dissensions among the Akali ranks. At present, Mr Zail Singh, who himself is an expert in dealing with the Akali leadership, happens to be the Union Home Minister and the Akalis fear his shrewdness in these matters.

PATROLS ON BANGLADESH BORDER TO BE STRENGTHENED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] The Chief Secretary, Mr A. K. Sen, said in Calcutta on Monday that the Centre had agreed to post one more battalion of the Border Security Force in the areas bordering Bangladesh. He said that the decision was taken at the meeting of Chief Secretaries in Delhi on Friday in view of the large-scale infiltration by Bangladesh nationals into West Bengal.

Mr Sen said that the Centre had also agreed to help strengthen the present mobile task force under the DIG (IB) of the State police force. He said that at present there were only 100 men in this force but they had detected nearly 8,000 Bangladesh nationals entered illegally the bordering districts during the past one year. The BSF, on the other hand, intercepted 2,500 people trying to cross the border illegally.

The Chief Secretary, however, said that the problem of illegal entry of Nepalese citizens, mainly into the North Bengal districts, was also posing a problem to the State's administration. He said that the rules regarding the issue of restricted area permits for the Nepalese visiting five North Bengal districts could not be enforced effectively because of a lacuna. He said that a citizen of Nepal did not require such entry permits if he came directly to any place in the State, other than the north Bengal districts, and then proceeded there. Mr Sen said that he had requested the Union Government to increase the number of checkpoints in Darjeeling district bordering Nepal to prevent illegal entry of Nepalese people into West Bengal. At present, there were only 10 such checkpoints in the district.

Mr Sen said that the question of issuing identity cards to Indian citizens in five North Bengal districts had also been discussed at the meeting. He said that the identity cards, if introduced, would be similar to those issued in Sikkim. Mr Sen said that the identity cards for Indian citizens would help detect foreign nationals in the bordering districts of the State.

He said that the Centre had agreed to consider the State Government's proposal for introducing registration rules for Bangladesh nationals visiting the country. According to the proposed rules, Bangladesh nationals would be asked to register themselves with the police station at the entry points.

CSO: 4220/7490

ASSAM POLICE OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] Shillong, April 4. The government is contemplating the dismissal of Assam's deputy-inspector-general of police, Mr Hiranya Kumar Bhattacharya, presently under detention under the National Security Act on charges of helping and guiding extremist elements connected with the Assam agitation, having links with the banned people's revolutionary party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and having made available bombs and firearms to extremist elements in Assam.

The extreme disciplinary action is proposed to be taken under article 311(II) (C) of the constitution, which will obviate the need for a formal inquiry. This article stipulates that no person "shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of these charges, provided that this clause shall not apply when the President or the governor, as the case may be, is satisfied that in the interests of security of the state it is not expedient to hold such an inquiry."

Mr Bhattacharya is currently detained in the Hazaribagh jail in Bihar. In the detention order served on him in the jail, he has been accused of trying to engineer a proagitation revolt in the Assam police ranks.

The government has further accused the DIG of "directing" the agitation's functionaries to send volunteers for training to the secret PREPAK camps at Basishta, near Gauhati.

The chargesheet begins with the allegation that he had been "closely associated with AASU and AAGSP and other militant and extremist elements, having links with PREPAK and the north-eastern students union, and had been inciting them to resort to violence in the state."

The chargesheet reads: "In order to help and guide the extremist elements you established links with such persons as could manufacture and supply arms and explosives. You established close links with Madhab Chakravarty of Chandkhi village under the Nalbari police station during April and May, 1980, and advised him about the training programme of PREPAK extremists of Manipur and directed him to send volunteers from Nalbari and Barpeta subdivisions to undergo training at their secret camps at Basishta in Gauhati."

Gauhati Blast

It goes on to say that on December 6, 1980, Mr Chakravarty was arrested in connection with a bomb blast case in Gauhati and the police recovered from him two "fairly powerful" bombs, six stick bombs, and one hand-made gun.

Mr Bhattacharya is accused of having held closed-door discussions with the AASU unit at Jagirud near Gauhati and of having incited them to resort to violence, stating that "it was the last struggle of the Assamese people for their existence and that the battle should be fought till the last drop of blood in the veins of the Assamese." [as published]

Next, he is charged with having bought two guns and ten bombs for AASU and AAGSP from one Arabindo Kumar of Jalukbri, now in police custody.

Again, in the last week of April, 1980, he is alleged to have sent for an important office-bearer of the Assam police association from his sickbed in the Gauhati medical college hospital to give guidelines on how the Assam police should help the agitation.

In the first week of May, while he was still in hospital, he is alleged to have sent an inspector of the border police (which he then headed) to the same police association leader, asking him to hold an emergency meeting of the association to adopt a resolution supporting the Assam movement and opposing his own transfer to Delhi as he was "doing everything possible in the cause of the Assameses."

The charge-sheet adds: "The aforesaid activities of yours while holding the senior position of the DIG of police (border) clearly indicate that you have made and are making serious efforts to create disloyalty among the Assam police force and to organise violent activities which are prejudicial to the security of the state."

Mr Bhattacharya has challenged his detention and denied all the charges in the Gauhati high court.

CSO: 4220

COMMISSION IN GUJARAT TO EXAMINE RESERVATIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 4 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Gandhinagar, April 3.--The Gujarat Government today announced in the State Assembly the appointment of a four-member commission to recommend steps for the uplift of backward communities, reports PTI.

The commission will examine whether reservation in educational institutions and Government services was necessary and if so, what should be its criteria.

The commission, headed by a former High Court judge, Mr C. V. Rane, has been asked to submit its report within six months.

In Ahmedabad, the police fired three rounds in the air to disperse groups of pro and anti-reservationists, which clashed in the Dariapur area early this morning.

Mr Prabodh Rawal, the State Education and Home Minister, told the Assembly today that the examinations of the Secondary Board had been suspended.

Later in the day, the Gujarat Government and medicos made conflicting claims about the withdrawal of the anti-reservation agitation at Jamnagar.

Mr Manohersinh Jadeja, Health Minister announced in the Assembly that the students of N.P. Shah College, Jamnagar, had withdrawn their 83-day agitation "appreciating" the Government efforts to resume their problems.

But a few hours later, the Gujarat Junior Doctors' Association, told reporters that the Jamnagar medicos were continuing their agitation.

The supreme court today admitted for hearing an appeal by the Gujarat Government against the State High Court's order last month releasing three detainees held under the National Security Act. The three--Mr Bhaskar Bhatt, Mr Gaurang Singh and Mr Atul Shah--were arrested in the second half of February. Gujarat High Court had set aside their detention in its order of March 9.

CSO: 4220/7474

IMPORT POLICY FOR 1981-82 ANNOUNCED IN LOK SABHA

Details of Policy

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, April 3.

A new scheme of trading houses with higher performance standards and Corresponding additional facilities has been introduced in the import policy for 1981-82 announced in the Lok Sabha today.

Export houses which have demonstrated their capabilities and achieved an annual average target of Rs. 10 crores of select products over the previous three years, of which a part should be products manufactured in the small-scale sector, will be eligible for recognition. They will be expected to achieve a minimum growth rate of at least 50 per cent higher than other export houses.

A provision has been made for the export houses and small industries corporations of the States to import, for distribution to actual users, certain raw materials which are required essentially by small-scale and cottage sector industries.

In order to curtail imports of items having indigenous production, the quantum of additional licences issued to export houses has been reduced. However, this reduction will not apply to export houses which are small-scale units and consortia of small units.

Duty Free Scheme: The duty-free scheme of REP (replenishment) licences introduced last year with three export products has been made more responsive to the needs of exports from the small-scale and cottage sectors. REP licences issued under the scheme will no longer be subject to "actual user" condition.

Export of hand-knotted woollen carpets has been brought into the scheme with the benefit of duty-free import of raw wool of carpet grade.

With this addition, the scheme will be available for import of brass scrap, stainless steel sheets/strips, zinc, raw wool of carpet grade, polyester filament yarn and nylon filament yarn, against exports of specified products.

The facility of OGL imports hitherto available to ONGC and Oil India in the Government sector has been extended to Coal India and Neyveli Lignite Corporation in keeping with the high priority given for production of fuel.

The OGL facility available hitherto for raw materials, components and spares has now been extended to capital goods for departmentally-run undertakings and Railways on the basis of foreign exchange released to them by the Government.

The Director-General of Doordarshan has also been permitted to import spares under OGL on the basis of foreign exchange released by the Government and subject to indigenous clearance.

More items have been added to the scheme of advance licences with benefit of Customs duty exemption. Provision has been made for issuing bulk advance licences to established manufacturer-exporters who have been exporting their products for at least three years.

Besides the normal REP benefits, trading houses will be allowed to utilise foreign exchange for export promotional activities at 2.5 per cent of their total exports in the previous year subject to a maximum of Rs. 40 lakhs.

Within this foreign exchange allocation, the trading houses will also be allowed to open warehouses and offices abroad. They will be eligible for additional licences at 20 per cent of the value of exports of select products manufactured by small-scale units and 7.5 per cent of the value of other exports of select products.

Additional licences issued to trading houses will be valid for import of restricted items with a value limit of Rs. 20 lakhs an item. There will be no excluded list of restricted items for trading houses.

Also additional licences issued to trading houses will be valid for import of banned and canalised items up to a maximum five per cent of the value of the licence subject to a single item not exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs in value.

The banned/canalised items imported will be those which are relatable to the products exported by the trading houses and will be subject to post-facto scrutiny. They will be allowed to provide IIMAC Industrial Raw Material Assistance Centre) [as published] facilities not only for actual user licences but also for REP/additional licences.

Claims settlement: In the case of other export houses, the value of additional licences issued against exports of products manufactured by small-scale units has been reduced from 33-1/3 per cent to 15 per cent. This reduction will not, however, apply to small-scale units recognised as export houses and consortia of export houses of SSI units.

In order to maintain good trade relations with their foreign buyers, the export houses will be allowed to settle small-value claims of their foreign buyers out of the bulk foreign exchange allocated to them for export promotional activities.

Both export houses and trading houses will continue to have the facility to import OGL items against REP/additional licences. However, OGL imports in these cases will be subject to the terminal date of the OGL itself or the expiry date of the import licences, whichever is earlier.

Certain items of metal scrap, including brass scrap and copper scrap have been placed on OGL for export houses and Small Industries Corporations of State Governments/Union Territories.

The imported material will be distributed only to actual users (industrial) and an account thereof kept by the importer. This responsibility has been assigned to the export houses and the State Government corporations to enable them to strengthen their links with supporting manufacturers and to enable regular supplies of raw materials to be made to the small-scale and cottage sector units.

The list of canalised items has been enlarged. The new items include: aluminium rods, writing and printing paper, and all types of edible and non-edible oils and fatty acids.

Cinematographic films, not exposed, 8 MM (colour) and 8 MM (black and white negative), brass scrap, copper scrap and tinplate waste are among the items whose import has been decanalised.

Facilities for non-resident Indians: The special facilities of non-resident Indians returning home for settlement have been further liberalised in several respects. The upper value limit of Rs. 25 lakhs for each non-resident Indian for import of machinery has been removed. Such persons will be allowed the facilities not only for setting up a new industry but also for participation in the expansion or diversification of an existing industry.

The restriction on import of banned machinery may be relaxed where such machinery is imported by a professional or technical person who has been using it abroad for at least one year before his return to India.

Import of computer system may be allowed where the applicant has been using it abroad for at least one year before returning to India or where the computer is a built-in part of the equipment being allowed for import. Import of prototypes will be allowed.

Import of cement purchased out of the applicant's own foreign exchange earnings abroad and required for construction of the factory building will also be allowed. The benefit of concessional rate of Customs duty as admissible on project imports would be permissible in these cases.

A provision has also been made that Indians who wish to return home for settlement may be allowed to import machinery required for agricultural production and development, for their own use, purchased out their foreign exchange earnings and resources abroad. [as published] Under this provision, banned types of machinery will not be allowed.

Machinery out of OGL: A number of items of machinery has been taken out of OGL in view of indigenous production. These include plastic extruders, threading, rolling machines, jig grinders, radial drilling machines, slotting machines, shaping machines, valve face re-grinding machines, watch making machines, hydraulic presses and mechanical presses.

A provision has also been made that capital goods listed under OGL may be allowed without licence, whether they are new or second-hand. The second-hand machinery

under this provision will not, however, be allowed if it is older than 10 years and its expected residual life is less than five years.

The value limit of capital goods import for the purpose of waiver from the requirement of advertisement has been raised from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs. Also no advertisement will be necessary for import of prototypes.

The policy for import of spares, accessories, and toolings along with capital goods permitted for import under OGL has been rationalised.

Spares will be allowed up to five per cent of the value of the main equipment. Accessories and toolings required for the operation of main equipment will also be allowed up to five per cent of the value of the main equipment.

If such accessories/toolings are required for a value more than five per cent, the actual user will still be able to import under OGL by producing DGTD's recommendation at the time of Customs clearance.

Import of standard accessories which are supplied compulsorily as part of the main equipment for its operation, will not be restricted to the prescribed limit of five per cent.

In order to check the possibility of abuse, it has also been provided that spares, accessories and toolings will be allowed to be imported either along with the main equipment or subsequent thereto, but not before the arrival of the main equipment.

Instruments: the policy for import of instruments has been rationalised. If instruments are required as components for machinery manufacturers, their import will be regulated under the provisions of supplementary licences and not as capital goods as hitherto.

Similarly, the import of instruments required as spares will be regulated in the same manner as of non-permissible spares.

For import of machinery against REP licences, the value limit up to which capital goods (CG) procedure has been waived, has been raised from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs. It has also been provided that registered manufacturer-exporters of wooden furniture may be allowed to utilise five per cent of their export earnings for the import of machinery required by them.

Photographic films, not exposed, 8 MM (colour) and 8 MM (black and white negative), essential dental materials as specified and Rudraksha beads have been added to the list of items permitted to be imported under OGL by all persons for stock and sale.

Banned, Canalized Items

Madras THE HINDU in English 4 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] Following is the list of items going into banned list:

(A) Other than capital goods: Mentanitre chlorobenzene; mono methylamine; L-tryptophan; Integrated Circuits CA 3068 CA 920 and their functional equivalents; automotive tyre tube valves, valve cores, valve caps and accessories, video cassettes, components of footwear; reflectors for use in cycles and automobiles; bicycle dynamo sets including lamp; High speed steel (non-cobalt grade) wires in ground condition--3.5 MM to below 5 MM dia; high speed steel (non-cobalt grades) rounds to any finish in sizes 3.5 MM to below 5 MM.

Ferro titanium (lump/powder form); ferro molybdenum; hydrazine hydrate/sulphate; endosulfan; 4-nitro diphenyl amine; ortho anisidine; ortho nitroanisole; phenyl beta naphthyl amine; sulphanic acid; aqueous film forming foam; ethylene oxide condensates and,

imidazolines, betairs, propionates, amino oxide; imidazolines, betairs, propionates, [as published] amino oxide; quarternary ammonium compounds like alkyl, trimethyl ammonium chloride, etc. or any speciality compounds; synthetic organic tanning agents; synthetic fibre tips and filters for sketch pens; phenyl ethyl alcohol; brewery hops, carbaryl; indigo vat blue-1; indigo vat blue-60 per cent; vat blue 2 B; lanolin anhydrous/adops lanae/wool fat (pharmaceutical grade); bare rubber thread up to 80 gauges; maleic anhydride; chloridiazapoxide, its salts and derivatives.

Vanadium pentoxide other than as a catalyst; sodium tropolyphosphate; alpha naphthyl amine; electrolytic capacitors of ratings not exceeding 63 V; value up to 4,700 MFD; TV horizontal deflection power transistors up to 40 watts dissipation, collector to emitter breakdown voltage up to 1,500 volts, collector current up to 3A and cut off frequency up to 10 KHZ (BU 104, BU 105, BU 204, BU 205 and their functional equivalents); resting and cleaning cassettes and copper alloy scrap.

Brass and bronze electrodes, rods/wires; cold-rolled hard drawn phosphor bronze rods up to 50 MM dia/SQ; molybdenum wires below 500 microns dia (0.5 MM dia); selenium metal (including powder form); germanium transistors AC 187, AC 188 and 2 N360 and their functional equivalent; general purpose germanium point contact and small signal detector diodes of peak inverse voltage up to 90 volts and forward current up to 50 MA; s-nickel and trimethoprim.

(B) Capital goods: green leaf threshing plants for processing tobacco and air separation plants.

Canalised List

The following items have been added to the canalised list:

Aluminium rods, palm stearin, palm kernel oil, palm acid oil, palmitic acid, soap stocks, palm fatty acid, palm oil (industrial), all types of writing and printing paper.

In the case of oils and seeds, cottonseed oil and seeds has been included in the canalised list. [as published] All other oils and oilseeds not specifically listed for canalisation will also be imported only by STC.

Decanalised List

Decanalised items include: unexposed cinematographic film (8 MM. colour and also black and white negative), brass scrap, copper scrap, tinplate waste, acrylic fibre, and polyester (as published) filament yarn (partially oriented).

CSO: 4220/7475

REPORT ON INDIAN-ITALIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF 3 APR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, April 3: India and Italy have agreed to intensify their economic co-operation and to explore possibilities of setting up joint ventures in third countries.

The Indo-Italian joint committee for economic co-operation, which concluded its meeting here today, noted that the level of bilateral trade was low considering the potential of the two economies.

India pointed out that an increase in its exports would be necessary if it was to maintain the current liberal import policy. During 1980-81, India ran up a deficit in its trade with Italy after four years of a favourable balance of trade. This was mainly due to a recession in the Italian leather market.

The Italian side affirmed its interest in an early conclusion of the Indo-EEC commercial and economic co-operation deal.

With regard to textile exports from India, it was decided to improve the information system so that data could be exchanged every two months.

Certain projects were identified for Indo-Italian co-operation in the fields of steel, electronics, pharmaceuticals, power generating sector, compressors, railways and transportation, aluminium and automotive sectors.

The Indian side welcomed the Italian decision to offer additional lines of credit to India and hoped that a system could be evolved for speedier utilisation of the credits.

CSO: 4220/7472

WRITER SCORES CHANGES IN FOOD-FOR-WORK PROGRAM

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Apr 81 p 8

[Article by B. S. Padmanabhan]

[Text]

SINCE last year the Food-for-Work Programme has undergone a change in its name and scope but the least move to pay wages in cash only is something that strikes at the very concept of the programme.

When the programme, since renamed the National Rural Employment Programme, was launched in 1977, the main aim was removal of hunger and poverty among the weaker sections of rural community. Creation of community assets was envisaged more as a by-product, for schemes were under way to create employment opportunities for weaker sections in the rural areas.

But despite these schemes, the problem of rural poverty remained untouched. On the one hand hunger and lack of purchasing power was there and on the other, foodgrains stocks were piling up, causing storage problem and locking up huge capital.

It was against this background that the scheme of utilising the foodgrains to improve the income and nutritional level of the rural poor was launched. The concept was not novel because similar programmes had been taken up in a number of less developed countries by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The World Food Programme of FAO was also aimed at using food and animal feed for implementing socio-economic development projects.

The basic idea of all these was that the beneficiaries should be given, not cash, but commodities which would provide a balanced diet.

Birth of programme

The programme was launched by the Janata Government but it was mooted earlier during the Congress @ regime as part of a strategy to make a direct attack on rural poverty. The 15.4 million tonnes stock of foodgrains enabled the Government to launch it. In the first year only two lakh

tonnes of wheat were allocated, of which only 1.2 lakh tonnes were utilised.

However, the programme picked up tempo from the second year as evidenced by the steep increase in allocation and utilisation of foodgrains. A total of 5.6 million tonnes of foodgrains had been allocated from the inception till October 1980, of which 4.8 million tonnes had been actually utilised generating, in the process, 888 million man-days of employment.

Criticism notwithstanding, an evaluation by the Planning Commission revealed that the programme had made a favourable impact on the life and living conditions in villages. The report noted decline in thefts and crimes born of hunger, market prices of foodgrains got stabilised and even slid in some areas, and consumption level of the beneficiaries rose and became more nutritional.

In fact, the general demand was that the programme should be made a long-term one instead of being seasonal and short-lived.

Suggestions

The evaluation team suggested not only continuance of the programme on a firm footing but also inclusion of more commodities for supply to the beneficiaries towards payment of wages. The items suggested were milk, meat, cheese, fish, pulses, bael, and a nutritive sweet preparation called sukhad.

Streamlining and strengthening of the system to prevent misuse of the allotted foodgrains and ensure that the intended group got the benefit was also urged besides suggestions to remove drawbacks.

The recommendations of the evaluation team are by and large reflected in the new guidelines for implementation of the programme. There is special provision for earmarking 10 per cent of the resources for works that will benefit the Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes and another 10 per cent for works connected with social forestry and fuel plantation.

The illustrative list of projects to be taken up has also been enlarged. But, the recommendation for including more commodities is not reflected in the new guidelines. The supply of wheat and rice has been provided for subject to availability only.

The 1980-81 guidelines stipulated that the wages should be paid partly in foodgrains and partly in cash. But it became clear that the supply of foodgrains at the level envisaged would not be possible. Against the original allocation of two million tonnes only 1.5 million tonnes could be released for 1980-81.

Apart from reducing the allocation, the programme was reoriented and rechristened in such a way as to create the impression that the emphasis had been shifted from improving the income and nutritional level to provision of employment and creation of community assets.

Guidelines

The guidelines for 1981-82 only strengthen the impression. The Rural Reconstruction Department, which is in charge of the programme, is keen that the basic objective is not lost sight of and wants foodgrains supply to be continued.

That is why the new guidelines envisage strengthening and streamlining of the public distribution system. In the absence of Central allocation of foodgrains the States have been advised to procure locally coarse grains and use them in the programme. This can at best be a supplement, rather than a substitute for supply of wheat and rice.

But the Food Department feels that in view of the fast depleting stocks of foodgrains, it should conserve the existing stock and the awe has therefore fallen on supplies to NREP. It has not been convinced by

the argument that allocation to NREP implies meeting the needs of the rural poor and this should be deemed as part of commitment to the public distribution system.

The Food Department is reported to be of the view that the beneficiaries can make use of the cash given to them to purchase foodgrains in the market and thereby improve their nutritional level. One of the points against this line of thinking is that if cash is given, it is likely to be spent on liquor and other non-essential items.

If all the beneficiaries go to the market to buy foodgrains, the pressure on the market supplies will push up prices and reduce the purchasing power of the target group. The net result will be the opposite of the main objective of the programme. In fact, without the "food component" the programme will be no different from the numerous rural employment schemes that had been tried in the past without much impact.

That the foodgrain stock position is not comfortable now is admitted. But should it lead to such a panic as to effect a vital programme like NREP? The minimum requirements work out to about one million tonnes—six lakh tonnes of rice and four lakh tonnes of wheat.

A record 38 million tonnes rice output is estimated and the total food output for the year is expected to be around 135 million tonnes. Out of this, can not the Government arrange to procure four lakh tonnes of wheat and six lakh tonnes of rice specifically for the NREP programme? With all the powers and administrative apparatus at its command, this should not be difficult.

The Government swears by the programme to provide employment for 1000 families per year in each development block. It has earmarked Rs. 2,760 crores in the Sixth Plan—to be shared equally by the Centre and the States—for this. But this by itself will not yield the desired result if it is not backed by provision of foodgrains and other commodities.

DELHI ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES FOR FOOD-FOR-WORK

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, April 5 (UNI): Faced with a steep drop in the foodgrain stock position, the minister of rural development has issued fresh guidelines to states changing the character of the food-for-work programme, now renamed as the national rural employment programme.

At least temporarily, the responsibility for buying and stocking of foodgrains for the programme has been passed on to the states. Under the new guidelines, the payment for the grains also are to be made directly by the state governments out of the funds made (as published) available by the Centre as well as by those to be provided by the states.

The new guidelines follow the food department's stand that foodgrain allocations for this programme would not be possible till the foodgrain stock position improves. The present stock position is estimated at a little less than ten million tonnes. The position is, however, expected to improve with the rabi procurement.

The food-for-work programme, started in 1977 and fully financed by the Centre till March this year, has now been made a Centrally-sponsored scheme, with the Centre and the states sharing the expenditure on an equal basis. The Central allocation for 1981-82 for the programme is Rs. 180 crores.

CBO: 4220/7481

RIVERS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS ON DACCA TALKS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Calcutta, April 4 (UNI).

The India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission today agreed to refer the Ganga water problems to their respective governments for a solution "at the highest political level".

This was stated by Union Agriculture Minister and co-chairman of the commission Rao Birendra Singh on his arrival at Calcutta airport from Dacca after attending a review meeting of the interim agreement on sharing the Ganga waters by the two countries.

The Ganga water problem, Mr Singh said, is no longer before the Joint Commission which has failed to find a way out to augment (as published) the Ganga flow. The exercise is concluded.

After three-day talk in Dacca both sides noted that they held different position on circumstances leading to the commission's inability to submit recommendations to increase the flow as provided under article 9 A of part 'B' of the agreement and agreed that appropriate and adequate measures for the purpose had to be decided upon by the two Governments at the highest political level, he said.

The two sides reiterated the great importance they attached to finding an urgent solution to the problem of augmentation of the flow, he added.

PTI adds from Dacca:

The agreement ends the first ministerial 'review exercise' down in three phases since 5 November last year.

No Report

The agreement reached between the two countries for the purpose was signed at the conclusion of the three-day review meeting by delegation leaders Rao Birendra Singh and Kazi Anwarul Huq Bangladesh Minister for Power and Water Resources.

The two sides have also agreed that the Joint River Commission for augmentation of the flow of the Ganga during the lean season could not submit its report during the stipulated time.

However, they differed over the reasons for failure of the JRC as an instrument to suggest ways of increasing the flow of river downstream Farakka during the dry season.

The 1977 interim agreement envisaged that the first ministerial review of its working--both short term (part A) and long term (Part B) would be made at the conclusion of the third year. As such the review process was started in November 1980 at Dacca and concluded here today. In between the two sides met once in Delhi.

The 1977 agreement has the provision of another ministerial review six months before its expiry in November 1982.

The agreement was read out by Rao Birendra Singh to the press in presence of the members of two countries delegations including Kazi Anwarul Huq. [as published]

CSO: 4220/7478

STATE PLANNING MINISTERS HOLD DELHI MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Apr 81 pp 1, 3

[Text] Planning Ministers from the States and Union Territories, at their one-day meeting in the Capital on Saturday, decided to gear up their planning and implementation machinery at the district and block level in order to ensure execution of development projects according to schedule. Experts would be associated at the appropriate level.

The meet, convened by Planning Commission deputy chairman and Union Planning and Labour Minister Narayan Dutt Tewari, was of the view that there should be no rigidity about the composition of the machinery. The States should be free to devise mechanism according to their needs.

In response to the demand of several States, Mr Tewari agreed to consider the question of 50 per cent central assistance for meeting the cost of the district level implementation machinery.

The State Planning Ministers' decision, in a consensus, came in the wake of Mr Tewari's exhortation to them to ensure adequate decentralisation and devolution of powers to facilitate planning and execution at the grassroot level.

In his keynote address to the conference, Mr Tewari stressed that in view of the Sixth Plan's emphasis on household as the unit of planning to combat poverty, village panchayats and local bodies should be assigned greater role. He told the participants that the Plan's success would largely depend on effective execution of rural schemes and special programmes meant for tackling unemployment.

Planning Ministers of at least two States--Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir--in their speeches insisted on not having any State-level planning body.

The State Planning Ministers concurred with Mr Tewari's view that programmes like Integrated Rural Development, National Rural Employment and Minimum Needs Programme, which were intended to reduce the percentage of people living below the poverty line from 40 to 30, needed special efforts.

The States agreed to prepare reports of actual beneficiaries the details of which would be available at the block level.

Another consensus was on the need to formulate district credit plans as a pre-requisite for drawing up development programmes and on the need to associate

representatives of financial institutions, commerce and industry with the planning and implementation machinery.

Though separate planning departments have been established in all the States Mr Tewari wondered whether they have built into their apparatus the necessary blend of professionalism and administrative acumen for discharging the multifarious responsibilities.

The Planning Minister said the feedback of the experience of the State Governments who are implementing these programmes would be very useful to the Planning Commission at this stage.

It would also help to devise ways and means of improving both the planning and implementation aspects of these programmes, Mr Tewari observed.

The agenda for the conference includes discussion on personnel policies and training and implementation of Sixth Plan with special focus on all special programmes including the Scheduled Caste and tribal sub-plan.

Since social and economic planning is a concurrent subject, planning implied a true partnership approach between the Centre and the States. With the State planning coming to stay, the States had to initially develop their planning capabilities in at least two directions. Acquisition of capabilities in the direction of futuristic planning to gain some insight into the perspective of development in the context of available natural and human resources and some integrative skills to attain a proper inter-sectoral relationship and better sequencing of isolated departmental programmes, both in time and space.

Andhra Pradesh Finance and Planning Minister G Rajaram told the conference that the State Government was not in fa-

vor of creating a separate planning commission or board at the State level on the lines of the Planning Commission.

In suggesting a planning machinery at the State level one should carefully consider the difference between the State and national level planning processes in the country's federal set-up. Otherwise there "is very real danger of planning at the State level becoming a replica or a miniature of planning at the national level thus making integration of State plans more difficult than it already is.

While planning had to be comprehensive at the national level it need not necessarily be so at the State level.

Jammu and Kashmir Finance and Planning Minister D D Thakur justified the State Government's decision of not having a State Planning Board. The present system in the State, he said, was functioning properly and there was no need to make any changes.

Mr Thakur pleaded that the State Government should be allowed to alter centrally-sponsored schemes if so demanded by the local conditions.

He urged the Planning Commission to review the present educational policy in the light of manpower requirements and review the Kothari Commission recommendations in the face of the existing economic conditions in the country.

Assam Chief Minister Mrs Sru da Anwar Taimour urged the Planning Commission to evolve guidelines which would help the States to ensure the stability of prices of essential inputs of plan programmes.

She told the conference the calculation of costs of the projects was one of the 'basic tasks before us'.

Punjab Finance and Planning Minister Dr Kewal Krishan, said the State Government had decided to issue special call to the members of the Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections to ensure automatic flow of facilities to them without any procedural hindrances.

Karnataka Chief Minister Gunda Rao stressed the need to provide facilities for training in various aspects of planning to the planning personnel and a strict schedule of implementation.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh suggested adoption of the project concept rather than the current scheme concept in planning.

He said in the present process of planning funds were allotted sectorally with the result that ongoing schemes swallowed up a lion's share of the funds from plan to plan, leaving little scope for new schemes. If the strategy was changed as suggested by him the benefits of planning would be available within a definite time frame.

Gujarat was working out the details of a new house hold approach, intended to benefit two million families, representing about one third of the State's population, according to Gujarat Finance Minister Sanat Mehta.

He asked the participants to open a window for the poor at the district level in their respective states to help the people below the poverty line to get the relevant information regarding the various schemes meant for them.

WORLD BANK APPROVES LOAN FOR FERTILIZER PROJECT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, April 2.--The World Bank today announced that the International Development Association, its soft-loan affiliate, has approved a credit of SDR 321.5 million (\$400 million) for a fertilizer project in India.

The \$1,276.9 million project will help meet India's growing requirement for nitrogenous fertilizer and use natural gas from the south bassein fields 300 kilometers from the project site at Hazira, Gujarat. The gas will be brought to Hazira by a pipeline.

The recently established Krishak-Bharati Cooperative will implement the project which consists of two 1,350-ton a day ammonia plants, four 1,100-ton a day urea plants and three steam generation plants of 275 metric tons an hour each. Also included in the project are two power units, and storage facilities for the plants products, a township with 960 housing units and ancillary facilities. [as published]

About \$3,450-million in foreign exchange is expected to be saved over a 12-year period as a result of the project. The increased domestic supply of fertilizer will help agricultural production efforts. The plant is expected to meet 10% of India's fertilizer needs when it reaches its full production capacity in 1988.

Due consideration has been given to the project's environmental aspects. The plants will be designed and operated to avoid introducing ammonia and urea effluents [as published] into nearby waterways. Air pollution controls will meet the association's guidelines.

In addition to the \$400-million IDA credit the following are also contributing funds for the project: the Overseas Development Administration of the U.K. approximately \$104.5 million; the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund Japan, approximately \$98.7 million participating cooperatives about \$25 million, the Indian Farmers' Fertilizer cooperative about \$125 million; various commercial banks about \$62.6 million. Approximately \$80.6 million of the Krishak Bharati Cooperatives internally generated funds would also be invested in the project.

The IDA credit is for 50 years, including ten years of grace. It will carry no interest, but bear an annual service charge of 0.75% to cover the association's administrative costs.

CSO: 4220/7468

STUDY SHOWS WHEAT EXPORTS MAY BE NECESSARY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, April 2.--Unless the Centre procures seven to eight million tons of wheat from the new crop, wheat imports will be unavoidable by the end of 1981, according to a study made for international foodgrain markets.

Exports of foodgrain in 1981 are, however, likely (as published) to be limited to rice because the level of the Government-held rice stocks is expected to remain higher than the requirement of the public distribution system. Rice exports may turn out to be higher than the 600,000-ton level, estimated for 1981.

The Government-owned stocks of wheat have already declined to around 2 million tons by March 31, just before the beginning of wheat procurement from the 1981 crop. The foodgrain production during 1980-81 is expected to total between 126.5 and 130.5 million tons, 16% to 20% above the previous year's drought curtailed output of 108.8 million tons.

Agricultural production during 1980-81 is expected to make a substantial recovery from the low levels of the previous year because of a satisfactory performance of the south-west monsoon. Therefore, a significant increase in the output of foodgrain and modest gains in the production of most other crops should result in an increase (as published) of about 15% in total agricultural production.

The final kharif figure is expected to be about 78 million tons compared to 68.1 million tons in 1979-80 and the record output of 78.1 in 1978-79. Prospects for the 1980-81 rabi production have since brightened. Even then the total foodgrain is likely to fall in the range of 126.5 to 130.5 million tons.

The 1980-81 oilseed production is estimated at 12.86 million tons as against 11.61 million tons in 1979-80. Similarly, the groundnut crop is likely to be 5.8 million tons which is marginally above the last year's output of 5.77 million tons.

As for sugarcane, the total production estimated is about 152 million tons--18% above the 128 million tons produced in 1979-80. The mill sugar production is estimated to increase to around 5.1 million tons in the previous year.

CSO: 4220/7468

BANGALORE INSTITUTE WORKS ON ADVANCED HYBRID ROCKET

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] April 5 (PTI): The aeronautical engineering department of the Indian Institute of Science here is developing a high energy hybrid rocket using liquid oxygen as the oxidiser and natural or styrene butadiene rubber as the fuel.

This rocket was in an advanced stage of development, Prof. V. K. Jain, chairman of the department said.

The development has involved the resolution of several important features like injector and nozzle.

Prof. Jain said one of the significant problems in the development of this rocket concerned the nozzle design to withstand high pressure and high temperature. The use of pyrolitical graphite, with a ceramic coating of zirconia was being attempted to extend the burn time of 60 seconds now possible.

Hybrid rockets, Prof. Jain said, possessed distinct advantages over both solid and liquid rockets. The expected performance from this system exceeded that of high energy solids significantly and was slightly better than the liquid oxygen-kerosene system, he said.

The specific impulse achieved at 91 to 93 per cent efficiency (which is normal for most rocket engines) was 265 seconds in the case of "lox-rubber" system. This was 15 seconds more than a high energy solid and about three to four seconds more than that of "lox-kerosene" system.

Functionally, hybrid rocket was far simpler than liquid rockets, and was amenable to control as in the case of liquid rockets, Prof Jain said.

Prof. Jain said hybrid systems clearly offered highly cost and time effective propulsive devices. This was particularly true in the case of countries which had not developed any large-sized solid or liquid rockets.

Research and development in this class of rockets was not extensive in other organisations in India, and the Indian Institute of Science had been making more and more efforts in this direction, he said.

CSO: 4220/7480

TRANSPORT MINISTER TELLS PLANS FOR SHIPPING INCREASE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 81 p 5

[Text] April 5.

The Centre proposes to increase the shipping tonnage by 2.5 million gross registered tonnage (GRT) net by the end of sixth plan, the Union minister for shipping and transport, Mr. Veerendra Patil said here this evening.

Mr. Patil was speaking at the 18th National Maritime Day celebrations at the KC College hall.

The minister told the large audience comprising shipowners, seafarers, [as published] union leaders and cadets that this programme would call for the acquisition of nearly 3.4 million GRT, as it was expected that nearly 0.9 million GRT would be scrapped during the sixth plan period.

He regretted that last year there had been little growth and the total net addition was only 50,000 tonnes. "If the performance of the private sector was alone considered it was actually minus 60,000 tonnes" he said. He further pointed out that as on March, 11, 1981, the tonnage on order was 1.413 million DWT.

According to Mr. Patil, the recession period was practically over and the Indian shipping industry could not look forward to a period of rapid and sustained growth. He praised Indian shipowners on their capacity to withstand recession. He was happy that Indian shipping could boast of a fleet of over 380 ships with a gross tonnage of 5.68 million GRT, making this country one of the leading maritime nations of the world.

The minister said the Centre was chalking out different schemes for expanding training institutions. The government, he said, had already decided to set up a shore-based academy.

The general secretary of the Maritime Union of India, Mr. K. E. Sukhia said he was sorry that despite the fact the seafarer [as published] contributed considerably towards the economic progress of this country, he was not given any income-tax concessions. "He is denied relief on the ground that his wages are high. But the same explanation [as published] is not put forward for those who are already getting such tax relief," he said. According to Mr. Sukhia the same seafarer, [as published] if he was employed in a foreign ship, was entitled to tax relief.

"He is termed to operate the second line of defence and is expected to ply in dangerous waters without even a gun fixed on board the ship," he said. He found it strange that Indian sailors were the only ones in the world whose food requirements were considered a taxable benefit.

Dr. A. K. Mukherjee of the India Meteorological Department said that during the year 1979-80, 271 ships were on the strength of the voluntary observing fleet out of which 33 were selected, 206 were supplementary and 32 were auxiliary vessels. Six new ships were added to the strength of the Indian voluntary observing fleet and nine ships were decommissioned during the year.

Dr. Leo Barnes, general secretary of the National Union of Seafarers [as published] of India (NUSI), received a special award from the minister in recognition of his service to seamen's welfare.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the director-general of shipping, Mr. R. D. Pradhan, regretted that the use of Hindi had not made much progress in the Merchant Navy.

A 91-year-old seaman, Captain Fakir Mohamed Jainuddin Juvala, a one-time Royal Indian Marine Sailor, and who was awarded the Padma Shree this year, was felicitated.

The Narottam Morarjee Award was given to Captain F. V. Fernandes. The Shipping Corporation of India award was presented to Cadet I. S. Sequeira.

Fifteen ships received awards for excellence for 1979-80 and 10 vessels were given merit certificates.

CSO: 4220/7480

SCHEME TO INTERLINK RIVER SYSTEMS DEVELOPED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] A National Perspective for Water Resources Development envisaging creation of optimum storages and transfer of surplus waters by inter-linking various river systems has been evolved by the Irrigation Ministry and the Central Water Commission. The Plan will provide benefits of irrigation, hydel power generation, flood control and navigation.

According to the Ministry's annual report for 1980-81, two main components of the Perspective are development of Himalayan rivers and peninsular rivers.

The entire scheme, estimated to cost about Rs 50,000 crores, would give additional benefit of 25 million hectares of irrigation by surface waters, 10 million hectares by increased use of ground waters and generation of 40 million KWs of power apart from benefits of flood control, and navigation.

The State Governments have agreed with the Centre on the need for pursuing these schemes. [as published] At present only the component pertaining to the peninsular rivers development which does not concern development of waters of international rivers is being finalised in consultation with the State Governments.

The report says that a National Water Development Agency is proposed to be set up to conduct necessary surveys and investigations.

A target of extending irrigation facilities to the entire gross potential of 113 million hectares by 2000 AD has been set. According to the report, an additional irrigation potential of about 57 million hectares would have to be created in the next 20 years with an annual average of 2.5 million hectares.

In order to achieve this objective, an outlay of Rs 8448 crores has been allocated for major and medium irrigation in the Sixth Plan. Of this, Rs 90 crore will be in the Central sector. In addition, an amount of Rs 1810 crore has been allocated for minor irrigation and Rs 856 crores for the Command Area Development Programme.

While the major and medium schemes will provide irrigation to an additional area of 5.7 million hectares, minor irrigation will create additional potential of eight million hectares during the Plan period, the report says.

CSO: 4220/7493

POWER GENERATION INCREASED BY 13 PERCENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] Power generation during the six months from October, 1980 to March this year has recorded an increase of almost 13 per cent over the corresponding period last year, it was officially announced on Sunday.

According to the announcement, during these six months, nearly 59,000 million units of power were generated as against 52,000 million units produced during the same period the previous year, marking a rise of almost 7,000 million units.

Also notable is the growth in rate of capacity utilisation from 42.2 per cent in June, 1980 to 48.6 per cent in December, 1980 and almost 52 per cent in March, 1981. Moreover, new generating capacity of 1,823MW was added. A remarkable feature of this capacity utilisation is that the entire capacity was fully commissioned except the 180 MW which was rolled. In addition, a capacity of 942 MW which was rolled during the previous year was also put into commission in 1980-81.

Of special importance is the marked improvement in power generation in the DVC from October 1980. As against the average monthly generation of 357.27 million units during 1980, the generation during March, 1981 was high as 529 million units, marking an increase of 48 per cent. As a result of higher power generation in the DVC key sectors like railways, coal and steel are currently getting the full amount of power allotted to them.

Noteworthy in this context is the fact that the improved power position has contributed to a nine per cent increase in coal production and higher output of salable steel. What is more, the DVC is extending substantial help not only to Calcutta but also to neighbouring states.

The increase in thermal generation has won particular attention. Thermal output during the six months registered an increase of 15.4 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year. The thermal generation improved considerably from November, 1980 when thermal sets sent for repairs during monsoon were reinstalled.

All this has helped to ensure the annual overall increase in power--from April, 1980 to March, 1981. During the year, 11,514 million units were produced as against 105,532 million units in the previous year, thus recording an increase of 5,982 million units. Out of this thermal, including nuclear, generation accounts for an increase of 4,991 million units and hydro 991 million units.

CSO: 4220/7478

DEVELOPMENTS IN ELECTRICAL ENERGY SUPPLY NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Apr 81 p 2

[Article by Baldeo Sahai]

[Text] The allocation for energy in the finalised Sixth Five-Year Plan has been raised to Rs 26,535 crore, which is expected to add about 17,000 megawatts by 1984-85 to the present installed capacity of 31,000 MW. But the point to ponder is, how much power will actually be produced and to what extent will it meet the rising demand?

Power production since Independence has been one of the fastest growing industries. During the past three decades, the installed capacity of 2,300 MW in 1951 grew 14-fold, and the number of electricity consumers increased from 1.5 million to 30 million benefiting a much wider cross-section of society. At present not only all urban areas but also 42 per cent of rural regions and 62 per cent of rural population have access to electricity.

The actual power production of 15,000 MW, however, is less than 50 per cent of the installed capacity. Against the minimum demand of 18,000 MW this means a critical shortage of 3,000 MW. What are the reasons for the low production, and how can the situation be improved? That has been exercising the mind of the planners and power producers, as well as consumers.

Historically, during the first half of the century the framework for power development was provided by the Indian Electricity Act 1910. In the post-Independence period, power was sought to be produced mainly through the State electricity boards constituted under the Electricity (Supply) Act 1948. The concept of power planning, earlier limited to individual utilities, was upgraded to cover the State as an integrated operating unit.

The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 reserved power development in the public sector. Simultaneously, facilities were created for the manufacture of power plants and transmission equipment within the country.

Through the amendment of the Electricity (Supply) Act 1976, the Centre has come to be directly involved in power generation. For the purpose of grid planning, the country is divided into five regions, each having an electricity board and a load dispatch centre. The power systems of contiguous States in various regions are now linked by tie-lines ensuring optimum utilisation of available capacities and

transfer of power from surplus to deficit areas. In 1980-81, about six per cent of the total energy generated in the country figured in the exchange between various power systems.

Another fallout of Central involvement in the power sector has been the establishment of two giant corporations in the public sector--one concerned with hydro-electricity and the other concentrating on thermal power. According to current programmes, the present Central share of seven per cent power supply will increase to 11.6 per cent at the end of the Sixth Plan, and to about 21 per cent in the course of the Seventh Plan.

The installed generating capacity in hydel plants is about 11,700 MW, which is about 35 per cent of the total power generation. A working group headed by the former Power Secretary, Dr N B Prasad, had strongly favoured the development of hydro power. The country, said his report, has a high hydro-electric potential equivalent to 100,000 MW at 40 per cent load factor as against the actual utilisation of only 10 per cent. The energy availability from hydel plants depends on the strength of the monsoon and operational regime of the reservoir. The reliability of hydel plants has generally been good, but the infrastructural investigations about the strength and weakness of soil formation, river flow and numerous other factors take as many as five to seven years. As such, no major hydel plant is to go into production in the Sixth Plan and some are likely to be commissioned only in the next.

The thermal plants are the backbone of the power industry in India, accounting for 62 per cent of the installed capacity. On the other hand, the contribution of the two operating nuclear plants with a total capacity of 860 MW is only three per cent. But thermal plants are plagued by the problems of low capacity utilisation and unreliable operations. There are frequent breakdowns and load-shedding, causing loss of industrial and agricultural production. Shortage and poor quality of coal, shortage of wagons, inadequate management and maintenance, machinery defects and labour problems are some of the reasons put forward to explain the situation.

Vigorous steps are being taken by the Department of Power to remedy the shortcomings. According to its Secretary, Mr D V Kapur, easily 50 per cent of the factors responsible for shortfall in power production are remediable. If the managements of power plants control those areas which can be controlled, the current gap in the demand and supply of power can be conveniently bridged. He has introduced a systematic programme of plan betterment at each State electricity board. A team of experts, chosen from among the employees themselves, identifies problems, procures the necessary inputs, fixes responsibility on a specific person to complete a particular activity in a time-bound schedule, continuously monitors progress and cuts down delays wherever found.

The sincere and sustained implementation of this scheme has started showing results. Power generation in the country in October 1980 was eight per cent higher than in October 1979. In the case of thermal power stations the improvement was as high as 22 per cent in November last year as compared to November 1979.

Mr Kapur initiated his experiments in project management services in the laboratory of the National Thermal Power Corporation set up only five years ago, and

of which he is the Chairman. The energetic implementation of these methods has cut down the installation period of super power stations from seven to eight years earlier to four years at present. Completion of a project on time leads to higher productivity. One day's delay in commissioning a giant thermal station causes a loss of Rs 20 crore to the nation--Rs one crore in electricity charges and the rest in loss of production. As such, these management techniques deserve closer study by all industrial houses for ensuring better results.

During my recent visit to the super thermal station at Singrauli, I was surprised to see the quiet efficiency with which the entire operation moved on. An engineer in charge of an activity had a chart in his room indicating every major step along with the date when it was to be completed. Progress was plotted daily on the chart, any problem in the smooth flow was immediately brought to the notice of the next higher officer (as published) who, if unable to resolve it, took it to higher level until it was sorted out. Since all possible steps were meticulously planned and programmed at the initial stage in co-operation with all concerned, unknown eventualities seldom reared their head. And the massive steel structure, the stupendous water cooling system, the three-flue chimney three times the height of Qutub Minar, which are coming up according to schedule--in some cases ahead of schedule--indeed seemed to be the work of supermen. The first phase of the station was to be commissioned in four years after it started but, they told me in confidence, it would go on stream a few months earlier.

Mr Kapur said he had not introduced anything new; modern management systems were now well-known in the country. What was unique in his NTPC, however, was the integrated management and control of the project involving numerous linkages and cross-linkages. Exhaustive agreements have been drawn up with each contracting party, whether for the supply of equipment or for construction. The plans and contracts for Singrauli first phase alone cover over 20 fat volumes. Dates are specified for the completion of each step and penalties laid down for delays. Quality control is exercised at each step for every component that goes into manufacturing a complicated equipment. If a contractor--even if it be a sister public enterprise--buy machine parts from the open market, the NTPC engineers are on the spot for ruthless testing. Thus, a whole army of contractors and subcontractors--quite a few sloppy and somnolent by tradition--are being trained free in modern management techniques.

The World Bank and other international agencies have been immensely impressed by the management systems of the NTPC, which has to set up 14 units of 22 MW each and 11 of 500 MW each in raising over 8,300 MW of power at a cost of Rs 4,000 crore in the next 10 years. Already the NTPC has bagged credits of nearly 1,200 million dollars for various projects--650 million dollars from IDA, 500 million dollars from the World Bank and 42 million dollars from the OPEC. The first IDA credit of 150 million dollars was given as early as April 1977 within four months of cabinet approval of Singrauli first phase.

With the betterment programmes being implemented by each State electricity board and modern management methods strictly followed by thermal hydro and nuclear power stations, we see a ray of hope on the power horizon. Even if sufficient funds are not made available to put up fresh power plants to match the requirements of massive industrialisation it should be possible to run the plants already in position more efficiently to yield higher power with the same investment.

CSO: 4220/7493

RECORD IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION REPORTED IN MARCH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 6 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] There has been a record despatch of pig iron and saleable steel from the major steel plants in the country during March, it is officially learnt. The railway despatches from TISCO, Bokaro and Rourkela have been the highest-ever during the month.

In March, the Bokaro steel plant despatched 190,000 tons of finished products, TISCO 171,000 tons and Rourkela despatched 170,000 tons of finished products. This record despatch was made possible because of higher production at the plants following improved power supply and an increased number of wagons made available by the South-Eastern Railway.

The South-Eastern Railway has also been able to move larger quantities of coking coal to the plants during the last five months of 1980-81. As a result, the overall coking coal stock at the steel plants has gone up from 66,000 tons in October 1980 to 383,000 tons in April this year.

It is learnt that during the first seven months up to October last year, the S-E Railway's freight traffic despatch fell short by 2.5 million tons of the target because of various constraints. The coking coal stock at the steel plants had at the time become (as published) precariously low. The railway, however, took some special administrative and operational measures to improve its efficiency and it paid rich dividends at the end of the year.

With regard to loading of coal, the S-E Railway's movement fell short by 1.4 million tons at the end of October last year. Since then, it has not only achieved its monthly target of movement of coal, but also substantially made good its shortfall of earlier months. Indeed, the monthly average of coal loading between January and March this year was more than two million tons.

This also led to improve loading of iron ore for export. The total loading of iron ore for export through Visakhapatnam and Paradip ports totalled 7.27 million tons, against the target of 6.6 million tons in 1980-81. In the field of finished steel, the railway moved 7.6 million tons, against a target of seven million tons during the year, it is stated.

CSO: 4220/7483

MODERNIZATION PLAN FOR BHILAI STEEL PLANT TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 81 p 13

[Article by T. E. R. Simhan]

[Text] Raipur, April 5.

An ambitious Rs. 450-crore modernisation programme, drawn up by Russian experts at the request of the Bhilai steel plant authorities, is awaiting the Centre's approval. When implemented, the programme will yield another half a million tonnes of steel.

Mr. E. R. C. Sekharan, managing director of Bhilai steel plant, told a party of visiting journalists that the Soviet report had been scrutinised by Indian specialists and MECON experts before it was sent to the Centre.

The programme basically aimed at increasing the capacity of the existing units substantially, besides enabling the plant to perfect steel making and steel rolling technology to improve the quality of the products.

He said nearly 50 Russian experts were camping at Bhilai to render any help needed. He denied that they assisted in the running of the existing plants.

Mr. Sekharan said along with the modernisation plan, the engineers were also engaged in exploring means by which production of the plants could be increased. There was an urgent need to intensify the open hearth process since all over the world there was a tendency to convert open hearths to twin baths which used three times as much oxygen, he added.

The managing director said that the BSP would introduce the twin bath technology in one of the ten furnaces shortly. In this regard, the BSP would have to draw heavily upon the experience of the Soviet steel plants.

Mr. Sekharan said during the last six months there was a marked improvement in steel production at the BSP. The capacity utilisation, he said, was 85 to 95 per cent. The plant could maintain this high rate of capacity utilisation because it imported nearly one million tonnes of coal from Canada and Australia.

The power needs of the BSP were not being met fully, resulting in less production. A perspective plan had been prepared by the BSP which would be discussed with the planning commission and other concerned authorities at Delhi on April 7.

The present power demand was 80 MW. After expansion, it would jump to 250 MW. Therefore, the BSP had suggested to the planning commission to permit it to set up more of its own generating sets. A 40-MW power station would be commissioned in August by the BSP.

Mr. Sekharan said there was good scope for mini steel plants in the country, particularly in Gujarat and western coastal areas. They could draw upon a portion of the Bombay High gas as well as the iron ore of Goa.

He declared that the expansion programme of the BSP would not spread pollution as it would have built-in measures to contain pollution.

CSO: 4220/7481

DECLINE IN STEEL OUTPUT REPORTEDLY HALTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 61 p 8

[Text]

NEW DELHI, April 2.

The chairman of the Steel Authority of India, Mr. K. C. Khanna, today claimed that the slide back in steel production had been halted and the downward trend reversed.

Speaking to newsmen at SAIL's new office on Lodi Road, Mr. Khanna said that aggregate production of saleable steel in the last quarter of 1960-61 was a new record.

The production of saleable steel in SAIL's integrated plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Burnpur, Durgapur and Rourkela in 1960-61 totalled 4.746 million tonnes against 4.562 million tonnes in the previous financial year.

Mr. Khanna was hopeful of cutting down SAIL's loss from Rs. 131 crore estimated in the first half of the financial year, to almost one-fourth

in 1961-62, for which a target of 5.73 million tonnes of saleable steel had been set for the SAIL units. The loss would be totally wiped out. In fact, Mr. Khanna was confident that SAIL would make a profit during the year.

Improvement in the supply of coal and power and a significant change in SAIL strategy were listed by Mr. Khanna as the main reasons for the upsurge in steel production.

Talking of strategy, the SAIL chairman said the emphasis was shifted from production of ingot steel to saleable steel. In co-ordination with the DVC authorities, power allocations to the plants were constantly reviewed so that the operations of rolling mills and other units could be staggered in such a way that saleable steel production was maximised to the extent possible.

CSO: 4220/7466

SETHI REPORTS ON OIL SUPPLY, MINISTRY PLANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, April 2.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) will have the option of obtaining 50 per cent equity participation in the capital structure of the foreign companies which have come forward to explore for oil in the 32 off-shore and on-shore blocks if oil is struck in any block under a clause in the agreements to be signed with them.

This was stated in the Lok Sabha today by Mr. P. C. Sethi, Petroleum Minister, replying to the discussions on the demand for grants for his Ministry.

While entering into agreements with the foreign companies which might find oil in the blocks leased out to them, "we shall try our best to see that actual oil is not shared with these companies till India becomes self-sufficient", he said.

In the Bombay High there would not be any sharing of oil with the Compagne Francaise des Petroles (CFP), which is giving technical collaboration for stepping up the production 17 million tonnes by the middle of 1982.

"The field has been explored by ONGC", he said "and the question of any sharing of oil in the Bombay High does not arise".

The other announcements made by Mr. Sethi are:

(1) With the commencement of production by the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant of the ONGC in Uran (near Bombay), the annual production of cooking gas will go up from 4.5 lakh tonnes to nine lakh tonnes.

LPG supply: However, Mr. Sethi said he had issued instructions that before catering to the requirements of those on the waiting list for new connections, there must be no delays in the supplies of gas cylinders to the existing consumers. Their requirements would be fully met. All unauthorised connections would also be regularised.

About delays in supplies, he said "we have asked every oil company to open a department to deal with the complaints.

(11) There is no shortage of crude oil or petroleum products. Admitting that during the Iran-Iraq war, "we were on the brink of a great shortage of petroleum

products". Mr. Sethi said Iran had already started supplying oil. He hoped that supplies from Iraq would also commence soon. Thanks to the prestige of the Government of India and the Prime Minister abroad, India was able to get oil from Mexico, Kuwait, Algeria, the U.A.E., Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Even Libya had promised to supply one million tonnes although there were some discussions regarding the quality.

We have also received an offer from Indonesia. The USSR has agreed to give 2.5 million tonnes instead of the 1.5 million tonnes indicated earlier after the visit of Mr. Brezhnev.

However, though there is no shortage of oil it does not mean that we should be spending this precious product in a careless manner. Wherever we can conserve, we should do so, the Minister said.

(ii) It might be necessary for ONGC to go in for foreign collaboration or technical advice for drilling in the Godavari off-shore basin, a difficult area on account of the high-speed currents and the presence of mud.

We have lost equipment and machinery here but we have not lost heart.

(iii) Oil India in which the Government has a 50 per cent shareholding with the Burmah Oil Company would be completely nationalised. The Government was trying to do this as fast as possible, he said.

(iv) Though production of fertilizers during 1980-81 was only 22 lakh tonnes which was very much below the available capacity. Mr. Sethi said not every plant was firing so badly. He specially mentioned in this connection, Madras Fertilizers which had achieved a production of 80 to 85 per cent of its capacity.

The Ministry had fixed a target of 29 lakh tonnes of production in terms of nitrogen for 1981-82 but I have asked that it should be fixed at 30 lakh tonnes. We are also taking steps to see that the production of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers is also increased.

A highlight of today's debate was the stinging criticism of the

Government's record on the choice of consultants for the Thal Vasther fertilizer project in Maharashtra made by Mr. Hanumanth Bahadur (DSF) and Mr. K. P. Unnikrishnan (Cong-U).

Referring to the CBI enquiry into leakage of secret files of the Petroleum Ministry, Mr. Unnikrishnan once again urged that the matter should be probed by a judge of the Supreme Court.

Defending the CBI enquiry, Mr. Sethi said if there was a leakage, it was natural for any Government to find out how it had occurred. He did not see why the members should think that the CBI would fail on them. He denied that there had been any pay-offs in the choice of Topsoe and Kellogg. Some people had been arrested in the course of the CBI enquiry and some more may or may not be arrested.

Turning to Mr. Hanumanth Bahadur, he said, he is having imaginary fears about himself or his leader.

As for the fears that CBI might "interrogate" some members or arrest them, Mr. Sethi said the CBI had not only interrogated but arrested members of Parliament in the past. "The CBI arrested me and searched my house and interrogated me for several hours," he said.

Defending the choice of consultants for the Thal Vasther and Hazira projects, Mr. Sethi said he did not know why the World Bank had taken a decision not to finance the Thal project.

But we are likely to get a much bigger help for the Hazira plant from the Bank," he said. (The World Bank has already announced that the Hazira project would get an IDA credit of \$400 million).

OIL OUTPUT FROM BOMBAY HIGH TO BE INCREASED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Apr 81 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, April 2 (PTI).

The production of crude oil from Bombay High and satellite structures will touch 20 million tonnes by 1983, the minister of petroleum, Mr. P. C. Sethi, indicated in the Lok Sabha today.

Replying to the three-day debate on the demands for grants of his ministry, he defended the invitation to foreign oil companies to explore and produce oil in onshore and offshore areas but assured the house that the clauses of the agreement would be drafted that no oil be bartered away until at least India became self-sufficient.

He spelt out the heart of the new policy as: "We are trying to make oil flow as fast as possible."

Mr. Sethi held out prospects of oil in the Godavari and the Mahanadi basins although there had been loss of machinery and equipment. "We have not lost heart."

During his one-hour reply, Mr Sethi announced the government decision to set up a number of gas cracker and aromatic extraction complexes in the country and assured the states of adequate supply of diesel for the agricultural and power sectors.

Mr. Sethi said production at Bombay High might go up from the present 7.5 million tonnes to 17 million tonnes by mid-1983, by intensifying work on the existing fields.

If possible, the structures B 37 and B 38 and R 9 and R 72 off the Maharashtra coast would be further explored for raising the production to 20 million tonnes.

Final Bids

Mr. Sethi said production in Bombay High had gone up and was likely to be about nine million tonnes this year.

He said the government had had discussions with 22 foreign companies which possessed adequate experience and technical know-how, besides financial

capacity, to do the jobs which were to be spread around a vast area of the country.

A second letter had been issued to them and the companies had been asked to give their final bids, which might be received by April-end. Thereafter the government would negotiate with them. "We do not know as yet what would be their terms", he said.

Mr. Sethi assured the house that the country's as well as the ONGC's interests would be taken care of fully. A clause would be provided in the agreement that the ONGC would have the option of obtaining 50 per cent of the equity in the companies working here. The ONGC would be fully associated with the exploration work and would get all the processing data.

He said it was "quite possible" that during the course of offer and negotiations the companies might ask for product-sharing. But it would be ensured that the companies did a minimum work of exploration and survey, including digging of wells. "Even in the question of sharing, we will try our best to see that the oil is not shared with them till India becomes self-sufficient," he said.

French Request

Mr. Sethi disclosed that the government had not agreed to the request of CFP, the French company, collaborating on Bombay High, for a share in the oil, because it was a field already explored by ONGC technicians. Discussions had been held with the firm, and its representatives were going back today after a second visit. It was hoped that they would return by the middle of this month by which time the government and the ONGC would be in a position to take a view, he said.

Mr. Sethi said the vacancies on the ONGC were being filled and the strength had been raised to 11, including the chairman and three or four non-official members. There were now members in charge of offshore and onshore. Oil India, in which the government had 50 per cent equity, would also be fully taken over soon.

He said the consumption of oil products had been growing at the rate of ten to 12 per cent contrary to projections of five per cent by the previous government. While there is no shortage in the country, there was also need to conserve oil, he said.

Mr. Sethi said that India's and the prime minister's prestige had enabled the country to receive oil supplies from abroad, despite the Iraq-Iran war. Iran was already supplying and India was hopeful that Iraq would resume supplies of oil. Mexico, Kuwait, Algeria, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia were among the others countries which were helping.

One million tonnes would be obtained from Libya too and at present discussions were going on the quality of oil to be supplied. The USSR had promised to increase its export to India from 1.5 million to 2.5 million tonnes.

Referring to distribution, the minister said there was no shortage of diesel oil. He had written to chief ministers that any special demand or shortage on the farm sector would be met by ad hoc supplies.

During the debate, Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma (Cong.-I) welcomed the participation of foreign oil companies in exploration and production of crude.

Mr. Sharma wanted the role of multinationals in the drug industry to be curtailed. India, he said, was now in a position to handle this industry with its own capability.

Mr. Surya Narayan Singh (CPI) criticised the induction of foreign companies into oil exploration at a time when the ONGC was making commendable progress towards achievement of self-sufficiency in oil.

Mr. Harikesh Bahadur (DSF) demanded an inquiry by a supreme court judge into the charge of giving consultancy contract for the Thal-Vaishet fertiliser plant to a foreign firm.

CSO: 4220/7466

OFFSHORE EXPLORATION IN MAHANADI BASIN SUSPENDED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, April 5 (PTI): Offshore exploration work in the Mahanadi basin may remain suspended for over six months, reliable sources said today.

Oil India Ltd., (OIL) had taken up the exploration work off Paradip in January last year and, after drilling two wells to a depth of 2,740 metres and 3,650 metres its hired rig left the site a month ago.

The sources told PTI that OIL would call for bids for a new rig and drilling would resume only in September or October.

This will be the start of the field season when foreign oil companies join the ambitious oil hunt programme in selected 35 onshore and offshore blocks.

It will also see a more vigorous thrust in exploration work by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the offshore Godavari basin where choppy seas and strong currents have forced temporary halt to drilling operations.

In its first offshore venture, Oil India located the first two wells it drilled in anti-clines (domes). It will now have a detailed study of the data available and may fall back on the old theory of looking for oil in terraces when it resumes drilling.

Its exploration programme in the Mahanadi basin covers an onshore area of 6,800 sq. km. and an offshore area of 1,000 sq. km. for which over Rs. 100 crores had been earmarked in the sixth plan.

Oil India has also decided to go in for a nine-well exploration programme--the second well showed traces of hydrocarbons--instead of the original three-well programme.

CSO: 4220/7480

DELHI URGED TO PUBLISH ILO REPORT ON MINES IN INDIA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, April 6.--The Coal Mines Officers' Association of India has urged the Union Labour Ministry to publish the report by experts of the International Labour Organization on the working of mines in India.

According to the general-secretary of the Association, Mr M. Qaseem the committee of ILO experts, which visited India in 1979, has recommended major changes in India's Mines Act and Regulations.

Mr Qaseem urged the authorities to appoint a committee comprising representatives of the Labour Ministry, officers' and workers' organizations and Coal India to formulate guidelines on safety in mines and welfare measures.

This is necessary because, according to him, the coal mines regulations were enacted in 1926 and last amended in 1957. These amendments were minor in nature. Safety and health measures in Indian mines are not in tune with modern mining technology.

Mr Qaseem said India's Mines Act, 1952, was based on the Mines and Quarries Act of the United Kingdom. While many penal clauses in the British legislation had fallen into disuse, they were "vigorously" pursued in India.

Mr Qaseem said mines Acts and regulations had undergone radical changes in the USA and West Germany to ensure greater flexibility of operations. This is why the report of the ILO experts, who have suggested major changes in India's Mines Act and Regulations, should be studied [as published] and implemented.

Mr Qaseem urged the Government to appoint a high-powered body to study the nation's coal industry from the points of view of production, safety and health, welfare measures, training of workers and industrial relations in mines.

CSO: 4220/7490

BRIEFS

SOVIET METEOROLOGISTS ARRIVE--A six-member Soviet delegation arrived in Delhi on Saturday for talks on intensifying Indo-Soviet cooperation in meteorology, reports UNI. The delegation is led by Prof Y A Izrael, chairman of the USSR state committee for hydrometeorology and control of natural environment and vice president of World Meteorological Organisation. The delegation will have discussions with Indian experts on research programmes on atmospheric [as published] physics, numerical weather prediction, studies on middle atmosphere and hydrometeorology. Referring to the Indo-Soviet research project 'monsoon' Mr Izrael said such experiments would have significant practical value for a country like India where monsoon [as published] has direct impact on agriculture. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 81 p 5]

PUNJAB BORDER BATTALIONS--Chandigarh, April 4. The Punjab Government has decided to raise two new armed battalions of the State police to keep constant vigil on the traders in view of the situation developing there according to Director General of the State Police Birbal Nath. A visiting committee would recruit people in proportion to the male population of each district leaving aside 25 per cent of the seats for the Scheduled Castes. The battalions would be named after Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the great martyr Bhagat Singh and numbered as 13th and 27th battalions according to their birthdates. To make these two battalions fully combatant, the army authorities would be requested for imparting them the advanced training. This is being done to protect the vital installation in the hour of crisis. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 81 p 4]

KERALA CONGRESS(U) LEADER--Cochin, April 5 (UNI): Kerala pradesh Congress (U) secretary, Mr. V. M. Sudheeran, MLA, has resigned his post, party sources here today said. The resignation was a result of the public disavowal by the Congress (U) legislature party of Mr. Sudheeran's demand on the floor of the assembly that a legislature committee should go into the lathi-charge on Janata party leaders, including MLAs, in front of the secretariat in Trivandrum last month. The PCC president, Mr. A. K. Antony, when contacted, declined to comment. The legislature party leader, Mr. Oommen Chandy, had taken exception to Mr. Sudheeran's demand, which he considered, was against the unanimous decision taken by ruling front leaders earlier to hold an inquiry into the lathi-charge by a revenue board member. Mr. Chandy had also written a letter to the chief minister, Mr. E. K. Nayanar, "regretting" Mr. Sudheeran's "contradictory stand." [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Apr 81 p 7]

PLEA FOR KERALA--Trivandrum, April 7: The Congress(I) leader, Mr. K. Karunakaran, said today that it was high time that New Delhi intervened to protect democracy and life in Kerala. He said the CPM-led government had failed to provide the basic protection to the people under a democracy. He also appealed to the non-Marxist parties in the coalition to ensure that the CPM behaved in Kerala. He wanted them to put pressure on the CPM to control political violence. Mr. Karunakaran accused the CPM of giving a free hand to "Marxist goondas" to indulge in political violence. The police had confessed that they were "helpless". The Kerala police officers association had openly said that if they had freedom of action the political violence now spreading in Kerala could be stopped quickly and effectively. The Congress(I), Mr. Karunakaran said, did not think that the RSS alone was responsible for the political violence. The CPM and the CITU with police protection had made peaceful life impossible, he added. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Apr 81 p 9]

INDIA-MALDIVES TRADE PACT--New Delhi, April 6: India and the Maldives have signed their first-ever trade agreement which envisages, among other things, supply [as published] to the Maldives of items required by them, to be determined bilaterally on a year-to-year basis. The agreement was signed in Male by Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan, minister of state in the ministry of commerce, and the Maldives minister of fisheries, Mr. Abdul Sattar. Mr. Khurshed Alam Khan had been in the Maldives on an official visit recently where he handed to the Maldives government educational material comprising children's films, toys and painting materials. The trade between India and the Maldives has registered a significant increase during recent years. There is a potential for increasing the export of electrical items, bicycles, construction material and dairy products. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Apr 81 p 13]

NEW NORTHEAST GOVERNOR--Shillong, April 6.--Mr Ram Kishore Vyas will take over as Governor of the five north-eastern States on April 22, reports UNI. The present incumbent, Mr L. P. Singh, told reporters at Raj Bhavan here today that he wished to go a day before his successor took over. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Apr 81 p 1]

MANIPUR CONGRESS(I) DEFECTORS--Imphal, April 7.--The 11 Congress (I) MLAs, who resigned from the Congress (I) legislature party on February 23 and toppled Mr Rishang Keishing's Ministry on February 27, joined the Congress (U) today, according to a Press release issued by the Congress (U) legislature party leader, Mr K. Phulinkanta Singh, and the convener of the group of 11 former Congress (I) MLAs, Mr P. Achau Singh MLA, reports UNI. Earlier, Mr Phulinkanta Singh was elected leader of the Congress (U) Party. The Press release said that the strength of the Congress (U) party had now gone up from one to 12. It has now become the largest party among the five partners of the Progressive Democratic Front. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Apr 81 p 1]

NEW ENVOYS NAMED--New Delhi, April 7 (UNI): India's ambassador to Libya, Mr. Narendra Singh, has been appointed ambassador to Switzerland in succession to Mr. Gurbachan Singh. The external affairs ministry also announced four other diplomatic postings yesterday. Mr. Chandrashekar Dasgupta, presently joint secretary in the external affairs ministry, has been appointed high commissioner to Singapore in succession to Mr. Bhupatray Oza. Mr. Preet Mohan Singh Malik, Indian ambassador to Cuba, has been appointed ambassador to Jordan in succession to Mr. Abdul Ghani Goni. Mr. Ravinder Kumar Jerath, minister in the Indian embassy in Washington, has been appointed ambassador to the Philippines in succession to Mr. Lakshmi Narayan Ray. Mr. T. T. P. Abdullah, director-general of police, Tamil Nadu, has been appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia in succession to Mr. A. K. Hafizka. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Apr 81 p 6]

SIKH OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT--Amritsar, April 3: Mr. Sant Singh, secretary of the Chief Khalsa Diwan, one of the oldest Sikh organisations, said yesterday that some newspapers had published misleading reports, particularly about the resolutions adopted at the 54th all-India Sikh educational conference held at Chandigarh last month. These reports, he said in a statement, tended to undermine the image of the diwan. Referring to the resolution demanding associate membership for the Sikhs in the United Nations, Mr. Sant Singh said it was spontaneous and had the unanimous support of the gathering. He, however, pointed out that the resolution had no political implications. He also clarified that the demand for a separate Sikh nation, or "Khalistan", was made by an "insignificant group of people who were in no way connected with the Chief Khalsa Diwan." [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Apr 81 p 6]

LANDLESS FARM WORKERS--Landless agricultural workmen in West Bengal will number 5 million, according to a rough estimate made by the Samyukta Kisan Sabha, the peasant wing of the Revolutionary Socialist Party. Mr Nani Bhattacharya, the State's Health Minister, who is the president of the West Bengal Committee of the sabha thinks that one reason for this alarming increase in the number of the landless labourers in rural areas is the concentration of land in fewer hands. He told a Press conference in Calcutta on Thursday that there were 1.7 million landless agricultural workmen in the State in 1961. The figure had risen to 4.4 million in 1978. During this period the number of sharecroppers had come down from 3.4 million to 2 million. [Excerpt] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Apr 81 p 9]

POLYTETRAFLUOROETHYLENE MANUFACTURE--Bombay, April 2. A project for the manufacture of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a high value-low-tonnage polymer of strategic [as published] importance with wide industrial applications is proposed to be set up jointly by Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd (HOC) and the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation in Medak district. The project, estimated to cost about Rs. 25 crores, is expected to manufacture 500 tonnes of PTFE per annum. PTFE is at present not manufactured in the country and the entire current demand is met through imports," Mr. M. T. Talathi, General Manager (Commercial), HOC, told newsmen here today. [as published] The annual demand for the product is estimated at about 400 tonnes by 1984-85.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Apr 81 p 9]

POWER STATION PLANS--Hazaribagh, April 3: The Centre has decided to set up a super-thermal power station at Kalagaon in Bihar. This was announced by the Union energy minister, Mr. A. B. A. Ghani Khan Choudhary, at a meeting of workers at the CCL Bhurkunda colliery, 60 km. from here, on Wednesday. The minister said power plants with a total capacity of 20,000 Mw would be set up under the sixth plan. A national power grid would be set up and power units located near coalmines to ensure a regular supply of coal to the units. Referring to the demand of some states for more power projects, he pointed out that the three states which had made similar demands were not paying adequate attention to the completion of projects on schedule. The Centre was willing to give the states technical assistance. Regarding coal production, the minister said the Centre had fixed the target at 165 million tonnes by the end of the sixth plan. The estimated plan outlay for the coal sector was Rs. 3,000 crores. The Centre was considering a proposal to allow the free sale of coal to eliminate artificial scarcity. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Apr 81 p 6]

AIADMK EXPELS RAMASWAMY--Madras, April 4.--Mr S. Ramaswamy, former Chief Minister of Pondicherry, has been expelled from the AIADMK for "anti-party activities," Mr P. U. Shanmugham, the general secretary, announced here today, reports PTI. Mr Shanmugham said that Mr C. N. Parthasarathy, former AIADMK convener in the Union Territory, had also been expelled from the party on a similar charge. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 5 Apr 81 p 12]

DEFENSE ACADEMY CHIEF--Pune, April 7 (UNI): Air vice-marshal M. J. Dotiwalla, commandant of the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla, near here, has been promoted to the rank of air marshal with effect from today, according to an official press release. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Apr 81 p 9]

CSO: 4220/7495

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

18 May 1981